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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Germans caught off guard by troop plan

BY ANGELA CULLEN

AND ARNE DELFS

Bloomberg News

President Donald Trump's directive to pull 9,500 troops from Germany hits home hard for friends of America like Edgar Knobloch, whose Bavarian town has been home to U.S. service members for seven decades.

Like Chancellor Angela Merkel, the mayor of

'I can't see any rational reason for the withdrawal.'

Norbert Roettgen

Chair, Bundestag Foreign Affairs Committee

Grafenwoehr was caught off guard. It's the latest sign of the U.S.'s deterioration of ties with a loyal ally, one that not only hosts most of its troops in Europe but also has seen them fuel the local economy.

This medieval town, with a tiny population dwarfed by the size of the American military presence, shows just what a shadow the U.S. has cast over Europe after World War II and what its retreat symbolizes in the eyes of locals and international observers. Another troop cut would signal a further break with a legacy of two generations.

Located near the former East German border, Grafenwoehr is a place where overseas U.S. military infrastructure and community bonds survived the end of the Cold War. Locals celebrate Thanksgiving and enjoy spare ribs. Every year, they turn out by the thousands for the German-American Folk Festival to share beer, bratwurst and country music with the roughly 11,000 U.S. troops based at NATO's biggest training area in Europe.

"They're completely integrated

AMERICA PROTESTS



Demonstrations march on

Largely peaceful protests against police brutality continue across nation

BY STEVEN SLOAN, JUSTIN PRITCHARD
AND TOM FOREMAN JR.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Massive protests against police brutality nationwide capped a week that began in chaos but ended with largely peaceful expressions that organizers hope will sustain their movement.

Saturday's marches featured few reports of problems in scenes that were more often festive than tense. Authorities were not quick to release crowd size estimates, but it was clear tens of thousands of people — and perhaps hundreds of thousands — turned out nationally.

Wearing masks and urging fundamental

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Inside:

■ Air Force's top lawyer urges action on racial inequality in service's legal system, Page 3

Demonstrators walk along Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, D.C., one of dozens of protests from coast to coast on Saturday sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died while being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on May 25.

ANDREW HARNIK/AP

SEE TROOP ON PAGE 7

BUSINESS/WEATHER

OPEC, allied nations extend barrel cut to July

By JON GAMBRELL
AND FRANK BAJAK
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — OPEC and allied nations agreed Saturday to extend a production cut of nearly 10 million barrels of oil a day through the end of July, hoping to encourage stability in energy markets hit hard by the coronavirus-induced global economic crisis.

Ministers of the cartel and outside nations led by Russia met

via video conference to adopt the measure, aimed at cutting the excess production depressing prices as global aviation remains largely grounded due to the pandemic. The curbed output represents about 10% of the world's overall supply.

But danger still lurks for the market, even as a number of nations ease virus-related lockdowns, and enforcing compliance remains thorny.

Algerian Oil Minister Mohamed Arkab, the current OPEC

president, warned meeting attendees that the global oil inventory would soar to 1.5 billion barrels by the middle of this year.

"Despite the progress to date, we cannot afford to rest on our laurels," Arkab explained. "The challenges we face remain daunting."

The decision came in a unanimous vote, Energy Minister Suhail al-Mazrouei of the United Arab Emirates wrote on Twitter. He called it "a courageous decision."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9621
Euro costs (June 8)	\$1.11	Thailand (Baht)		31.51
Dollar buys (June 8)	€0.86	Turkey (Lira)		6.7735
British pound (June 8)	\$1.24	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (June 8)	¥105.00	INTEREST RATES		
South Korean won (June 8)	₩1,186.00	Prime rate		3.25
Commercial rates		Discount rate		0.25
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3776	Federal funds market rate		0.06
British pound	\$1.2671	3-month bill		0.15
Canada (Dollar)	1.3433	30-year bond		1.68
China (Yuan)	7.0820			
Denmark (Krone)	6.6024			
Egypt (Pound)	15.385			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	\$1.2294/0.8854			
Hungary (Forint)	7.7501			
Israel (Shekel)	3.4683			
Japan (Yen)	109.62			
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3081			
Norway (Krone)	9.2981			
Philippines (Peso)	48.85			
Poland (Zloty)	3.93			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7552			
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3929			
South Korea (Won)	1,201.57			

WEATHER OUTLOOK

MONDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



MONDAY IN EUROPE



TUESDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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MILITARY

USAF lawyer urges action on racial disparities

By JENNIFER H. SVAN
Stars and Stripes

The Air Force must address racial inequality in its legal system, the service's top lawyer said last week, noting that young, black enlisted airmen are punished more frequently than their nonblack counterparts.

"As our nation grapples with the issues of racial justice and equality, the public will look to the Armed Forces to set the example," Lt. Gen. Jeffrey Rockwell, the service's judge advocate general, said in a letter to the Judge Advocate General Corps this week. "National security, and the practice of national security law, requires diversity in order to defend a diverse nation."

Rockwell's letter and a series of slides showing Air Force justice statistics were posted Thursday on the unofficial Amn/Nco/Snco Air Force Facebook page. A service spokeswoman confirmed with Stars and Stripes on Friday that the letter and at least the first three slides were authentic.

The slides were posted as protests spurred by the murder of African American George Floyd, who died when a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes, continued across America.

Black male airmen under the age of 25 and with less than five years of service receive administrative punishment and court-martial actions "at a higher rate than similarly situated white male airmen," Rockwell wrote in his letter.

Last year, the 47,827 black air-

men in the service were nearly twice as likely as the 232,730 white airmen to receive nonjudicial punishment, and the rate at which black airmen faced court-martial was also nearly double the rate for whites, Rockwell said.

A General Accountability Office report in 2019 also found that blacks, Hispanics and men were more likely to be investigated for wrongdoing than whites and women in each of the Pentagon services, though they were no more likely to be convicted at court-martial.

Racial discrepancies in the Air Force narrowed as time in service increased, a review of Rockwell's data from 2012 to 2016 showed, and at E-5 or above — or about six years of service — the discrepancies were statistically insignificant.

JAG personnel can share ideas on a recently created "race and justice feedback" website, anonymously if they choose, Rockwell said.

For those not comfortable putting their ideas in writing, Rockwell suggested talking to a co-worker, supervisor, commander or directly with him.

"As legal professionals," he said, "we thrive in debate of difficult topics — and no topic is as important as the value and inclusion of each of our Airmen," he said.

A conversation also needs to be held to address whether the Air Force equally values and welcomes all airmen and fosters an atmosphere of inclusion, Rockwell said.

His comments came days after



MICHAEL S. MURPHY/U.S. Air Force

Lt. Gen. Jeffrey A. Rockwell, U.S. Air Force judge advocate general, seen in 2018, is urging action against racial discrepancies in the service's legal system.

Chief Master Sgt. of the Air Force Kaleth O. Wright and Chief of Staff Gen. David Goldfein pledged in a virtual town hall meeting to fight discrimination and answered questions about race.

Wright, who is black, was the first senior military leader to issue a public statement on social

media following Floyd's death.

"What happens all too often in this country to Black men who are subjected to police brutality that ends in death ... could happen to me," he said in a Twitter post.

Wright, who represents enlisted interests to the public and

government and advises the Air Force chief of staff, went on to say he struggles with "the Air Force's own demons," including racial disparity in military justice and discipline among the youngest black, male airmen.

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Judge dismisses Fitzgerald lawsuits for lack of jurisdiction

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

United States courts have no jurisdiction over two cases involving the shipping company whose container vessel collided with a U.S. warship three years ago, killing seven sailors, a federal judge ruled Thursday in dismissing lawsuits brought by Navy survivors and the families of the sailors.

Two lawsuits filed in the U.S. District Court for Eastern Louisiana sought more than \$287 million from Japan-based NYK Line,

which chartered the ACX Crystal, the ship that collided with the guided-missile destroyer USS Fitzgerald off the coast of Japan on June 17, 2017.

U.S. District Judge Lance Africk in New Orleans granted NYK Line's motion to dismiss, filed in March. The company "cannot be deemed 'at home' in every country in which it operates," according to Africk's ruling. NYK Line maintains less than 6% of its employees and generates less than 10% of its revenue in the U.S., he wrote.

NYK Line has a large global

network which spans 60 regions and countries, including the U.S. It employs about 35,000 people, has a fleet of 710 ships and has consolidated revenue of about \$171 billion, according to its website.

NYK Line's lawyers in their motions argued that Tokyo is the company's principal place of business.

"The U.S. has never served as a surrogate home for NYK Line," they wrote.

The plaintiffs' attorney, David Schloss, had argued that the U.S. court was an appropriate venue

because NYK "has substantial, systematic and continuous contacts with the United States as a whole," according to court documents.

Seven sailors were killed and dozens were injured in the crash about 60 nautical miles southwest of Yokosuka, where the guided-missile destroyer was based at the time. Official reports have not assigned liability for the crash to either ship.

The lawsuits claimed that the sailors also endured mental anguish, lost wages, pain and suffering and "pre-death fright."

Schloss plans to appeal the decision and said that his clients were "disappointed by the judge's decision" in an email to Stars and Stripes on Friday.

"It simply cannot be the case that the United States has no interest in providing a forum for the seven families who lost their loved ones and the more than 40 Fitzgerald sailors who suffer debilitating physical and psychological injuries, all in the name of serving their country," Schloss said.

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Marine Corps prohibits public displays of Confederate battle flag

Stars and Stripes

The Marine Corps has banned most public displays of a controversial Confederate symbol, including on clothing, mugs and bumper stickers, at its installations worldwide.

"The Confederate battle flag has all too often been co-opted by violent extremist and racist groups whose divisive beliefs

have no place in our Corps," the service's official Twitter account tweeted Friday.

The move, announced in a Marine administrative message that day, said that commanders "must exercise best judgment and discretion" when inspecting work spaces and public areas to find and remove depictions of the stars and bars.

They are not, however, al-

lowed to inspect barracks rooms or other living quarters, private vehicles, assigned desk drawers, cabinets, lockers or backpacks.

The directives come amid global outrage over the May 25 police killing of George Floyd, an African American man in Minneapolis. He died gasping that he couldn't breathe as a white police officer kept his knee on his neck for several minutes.

Massive protests have spurred some government officials in several states to remove their Confederate monuments, including a statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee in Richmond, Va.

Marine Corps commandant Gen. David Berger addressed the unrest in a statement Wednesday. "Current events are a stark reminder that it is not enough for us to remove symbols that cause

division — rather, we also must strive to eliminate division itself," he said.

The Marine directive does not apply to the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Virginia or other displays that "address the Civil War from a neutral, historical or educational perspective," the message said.

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MILITARY

4 bombers, 200 airmen fly home from Guam drill

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

Four B-1B Lancers recently flew home to Texas after wrapping up a month of training in a bomber task force at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam.

The bombers and about 200 airmen arrived at Dyess Air Force Base, near Abilene, on May 31, after completing a deployment that began May 1, the Air Force said. The contingent had been sent to Guam to conduct training and operations with allies and partners.

The Lancers and airmen are with the 9th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron, 7th Bomb Wing, at Dyess.

They were deployed to support Pacific Air Forces' effort to reinforce the "rules-based international order" in the Indo-Pacific region through strategic deter-

rence missions, the Air Force said when they were deployed.

The bombers arrived in Guam two weeks after the Air Force had abruptly ended its longtime practice of rotating bombers through Andersen for set six-month intervals, opting instead for a less predictable means of deploying the aircraft throughout the globe.

The new model aligns with the U.S. National Defense Strategy's objectives of "strategic predictability and operational unpredictability," the Air Force said. It enables strategic bombers to operate forward in the Indo-Pacific region from a wider array of spots in the United States and overseas.

On May 21, two of the B-1B bombers completed a 24-hour training sprint that spanned the Pacific from Alaska to Japan.

In Alaska, the bombers were joined by F-22 and F-16 fighter jets



COLIN HOLLOWELL/U.S. Air Force

Senior Airman Brent Cook marshals a B-1B Lancer at Dyess Air Force Base, Texas, on May 31.

to conduct a large force exercise over the vast Joint Pacific Alaska Range Complex. The bombers then flew to Japan where they integrated with the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan and a P-9 Poseidon surveillance plane for anti-ship missile training. They

then returned to Guam.

"These missions demonstrate our ability to hold any target at risk, anytime, and anywhere," Lt. Col. Ryan Stallsworth, commander of the 9th Bomb Squadron, said in a news release after the flight.

"These missions make the DoD more ready, more lethal, and flat out stronger," he said. "Our aviators are getting the chance to coordinate and practice time-sensitive target drills in the Pacific."

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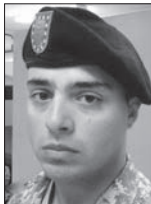
Army IDs Texas soldier found dead alongside family

By KAT BOUZA
Stars and Stripes

A man found dead alongside his family at a San Antonio home has been identified as a soldier stationed at Joint Base San Antonio-Fort Sam Houston, military and police officials said Friday.

Police conducting a welfare check found the body of Jared Esquibel Harless, 38, in an SUV parked inside the garage of a home on the 100 block of Red Willow on Thursday evening, according to the San Antonio Medical Examiner's Office. They also found the bodies of a 36-year-old woman; two boys, ages 4 and 11 months; and two girls, ages 3 and 1.

San Antonio Police Chief William McManus told reporters Thursday evening the incident "was not an accident" and that the deaths appeared to be the result of car-



Harless

said additional information will be released after family members have been notified.

Neighbors told FOX San Antonio that the deceased family, who moved to the neighborhood in January, did not appear "out

bon monoxide poisoning.

Harless was assigned to the 470th Military Intelligence Brigade at Joint Base San Antonio, the Army confirmed in a statement Friday. It did not reveal his rank.

Brigade spokeswoman Monica Yoos

said additional information will be released after family members have been notified.

Neighbors told FOX San Antonio that the deceased family, who moved to the neighborhood in January, did not appear "out

of the ordinary" and could often be seen spending time outdoors.

McManus said police were called to the home at 10:30 a.m. Thursday to perform the welfare check after Harless, who was working from home, failed to report for duty.

Officers found what the San Antonio Express-News described as "a 'cryptic note' with military jargon that required a member of the armed forces to decipher" posted on the front door.

"The interpretation of it was, there were people, bodies or people, inside and do not enter," McManus told News 4 San Antonio.

Officers were overcome by what McManus described as "a heavy, noxious fume" emanating from the home, prompting them to use a drone to investigate the scene, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

Police found what appeared to be explosives, prompting the evacuation of nearby residences.

Once the home was deemed safe to enter, police discovered the family in the back of an SUV parked in the garage, according to several media reports. Two dead cats were found in a basket in the front seat.

"Based on the note that we received, we were very cautious about going in, and we were trying to find out what was in there before we made entry," McManus said during a press conference Thursday evening.

"Saying it's not pretty, there's no word to describe it," he said.

The case is under investigation by the San Antonio Police Department and the Army Criminal Investigation Command, the Army's statement said.

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Fort Bliss soldier charged with murder in death of his estranged wife

By COREY DICKSTEIN
Stars and Stripes



Smith III

WASHINGTON — A Fort Bliss soldier has been charged with murder in the death of his estranged wife, whose body was found Wednesday in a storage closet, police in El Paso, Texas, and Army officials said.

Spc. Linwood James Smith III, 22, was arrested early Wednesday and charged in the killing of Kerica Robinson after El Paso police discovered evidence on his phone that he might have attempted to cover up her death,

court documents show.

He remained in the El Paso County Detention Facility on Friday, where he was booked on murder charges and held on a \$1 million bond.

Investigators said they believe Robinson was killed May 29, just three days before her 21st birthday.

In an arrest affidavit, police stated a friend reported Robinson missing Tuesday, leading them to contact Smith, who told them that she was in New Mexico.

Smith consented to a search of

the apartment that they previously shared in eastern El Paso, according to the document.

A subsequent search of his cellphone uncovered internet searches including "can police trace a bullet to a gun" and "what happens if police can't find a missing person," investigators stated.

During an interrogation, Smith repeatedly changed his story, investigators wrote.

He eventually told them that Robinson had attacked him and he had shot her in self-defense, wrapped her body in plastic and

hid it in the storage closet off the apartment's balcony.

Investigators discovered her body there Wednesday. They classified her death as having occurred as the result of family violence.

Fort Bliss officials said Smith is from Jacksonville, Fla., and a signal support systems specialist assigned to the 1st Armored Division, they said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Rose L. Thayer contributed to this report. dickstein.corey@stripes.com
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MILITARY



NANCY MONTGOMERY/Stars and Stripes

At least 100 people gathered in the Piazza Castello in Vicenza, Italy, on Saturday, including many Americans, to protest the killing of George Floyd by Minneapolis police.

Americans and Italians protest against death of George Floyd

BY NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

VICENZA, Italy — T'ziae Frazier spent the hours before her American high school graduation Saturday with friends and 100 strangers in an Italian plaza protesting racism and police brutality in her home country.

"Honestly, I feel the pain of all of my ancestors, all of them," said Frazier, who'll be attending Howard University in the fall. She said it was devastating how anti-black racism and extrajudicial killings by police could still be so prevalent more than a half-century after the civil rights movement. "I want to do my part whether through protesting or educating people so we can move on to a better world for the next generation," she said.

Frazier's mother is a U.S. soldier and so is barred by a Defense Department directive from attending a protest in a foreign

country. Others were given the go-ahead Thursday from Gen. Tod Wolters, who heads U.S. European Command, according to a military spokesman.

But DODEA teachers from the base who attended said they would not have been deterred in any case. "Not for one minute. I didn't even think about it," said Dana Keller, an English teacher.

"We support the (Black Lives Matter) movement," said her husband, Richard Duncan. "How could you not?"

The peaceful, two-hour program included speeches, music, and the playing of a videotape in which a black Minneapolis man died two weeks ago when a white police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

"I can't breathe," George Floyd said.

Tears welled in the eyes of many demonstrators before they lay on the street in solidarity and

remembrance. Floyd's killing set off large protests in all 50 states, most of them peaceful. Protests in countries around the world followed.

The Vicenza protest was organized by Italian American business owner Shanda Holley, who grew up in Ohio, the daughter of an Italian woman and a black father. She said she and her mixed-race family were consistently subject to racist taunts from white residents and brutal mistreatment by authorities.

"We are all here to make ourselves heard again after the umpteenth time that police brutality has taken away another life," she said to the protesters. "We should understand that any wrong done to our most vulnerable brother or sister, in the U.S., here in Italy or anywhere else in the world, is done against all of us."

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USFK head calls on racism fight in the military

BY KIM GAMEL
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The top U.S. commander in South Korea expressed outrage over the police killing of George Floyd and called on leaders at all levels to do more to fight racism and bigotry in the military.

Gen. Robert Abrams was the latest senior official to speak out publicly on Floyd's death, which has unleashed nationwide unrest and anger that has extended to troops overseas.

"We should all be outraged and ashamed at the killing of George Floyd & others by police. I know I am," Abrams said Friday in a series of tweets. "We should be equally outraged against racism and bigotry that continues."

"To be clear — there is NO place for it in our country. NO place for it in our military. ZERO," he said.

Floyd died on May 25 in Minneapolis, gasping that he couldn't breathe as a white police officer kept his knee on his neck for several minutes.

The police officer, Derek Chauvin, has been charged with murder, but protests continued.

Abrams said he spent the week speaking privately with many black service members about their worries and their families at home.

"The pain is deep and real. These are not isolated cases of discrimination and bigotry ... it

is in many places," he wrote. "We can and must do better."

He noted the topic has long been taboo, saying it's time for action.

"Start in your squad/platoon/flight/staff section and every other echelon up to USFK HQ. This is leader business," he said. "If you don't think there is a



Abrams

problem, you might be part of the problem. Have the courage to start the conversation."

Abrams also urged leaders to ensure diversity in their formations.

"Last and most importantly, we need to do less talking the talk, and start walking the walk in our daily actions that demonstrates our commitment to our values and dignity and respect for everyone," he said.

His comments came two days after Defense Secretary Mark Esper addressed the killing for the first time, calling it "a tragedy that we have seen repeat itself too many times."

Esper insisted the military has been a leader on racial issues but acknowledged "we still have much to do on this front."

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EUCOM boss urges frank dialogue about racism, but protests off-limits

BY JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — U.S. troops in Europe are prohibited from joining anti-racism protests taking place around the Continent, but military officials are looking for ways to allow on-base gatherings that enable members to "come together and heal," the top commander in Europe said.

"For off-installation activities, leaders must ensure service members know that they are prohibited from participating in peaceful protests/demonstrations in foreign countries," U.S. European Command's Gen. Tod Wolters said in a memo to the force Thursday.

Wolters' directive is in line with longstanding military policy and comes as protests spread across Europe in response to the death last month of George Floyd, who died after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for more than eight minutes.

In addition to the Pentagon policy bar-



CHAD GARLAND/Stars and Stripes

A woman holds a sign protesting police brutality against blacks during an anti-racism demonstration in Kaiserslautern, Germany, on Thursday.

ring troops from taking part in protests outside the U.S., social distancing rules to fight the coronavirus also mean they can't join the gatherings, military officials have said. But Wolters said his command is looking for ways to allow service members to discuss and deal with the issue of racism.

"To provide opportunities for on-installation gatherings to allow our community

members to come together to heal and learn, we are currently working through options, cognizant of limits imposed by COVID-19 restrictions," he said, saying there is a need for "frank, open dialogue and discussions ... to strengthen our organizations."

Defense Department civilians and family members are allowed to attend demonstrations, but they must follow all local laws and the directions of law enforcement, Wolters said.

The military community must learn from the events unfolding in the U.S., he said, where huge demonstrations against police brutality and racism have been taking place, sometimes turning violent.

In recent days, scores of military leaders have spoken about the need to address racism, and some former commanders, including former Defense Secretary Jim Mattis, have condemned President Donald Trump's call to deploy the military to quell protests and riots that have convulsed the U.S. since Floyd's death.

Defense Secretary Mark Esper has also

said he opposes invoking the Insurrection Act to use active duty troops in a law enforcement role. Trump has spoken in favor of a larger military role and has hinted at invoking the rarely used act, which was passed in 1807.

In a memorandum sent to DOD personnel this week, Esper said the military remains committed to protecting the American people's "right to freedom of speech and to peaceful assembly" and to uphold the rule of law "so that the violent actions of a few do not undermine the rights and freedoms of law-abiding citizens."

In Europe, some of the anti-racism rallies spurred by Floyd's death have been held in cities that host U.S. forces. A rally was held Saturday in Vicenza, where U.S. Army Garrison Italy is based, and another is scheduled in Stuttgart, which hosts the U.S. European and Africa commands.

Around 300 people took part in a protest Thursday in Kaiserslautern, home to the largest overseas U.S. military community.

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MILITARY

Japan and Guam grads have unique ceremony

By DAVE ORNAUER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Jimmy Journey didn't hesitate when asked if he could think of one word to sum up this year's graduations for Defense Department high schools in the Pacific.

"Memorable," said Journey, the superintendent for Department of Defense Education Activity's Pacific South District. "It's been 40 years since I graduated. I don't remember a thing about it. I'm willing to bet these kids will remember."

Commencement ceremonies at schools in Japan, South Korea and Guam took place Wednesday through Saturday, closing out an atypical school year marked by a global coronavirus pandemic that turned DODEA classrooms into virtual experiences.

Many DODEA schools conducted some form of virtual, online graduation that was live-streamed on each school's Facebook page.

But where possible, after conferring with commanders at their respective bases, some schools hosted in-person graduations in one form or another. Graduates wore masks along with caps and gowns and everyone, including families, where allowed, were seated at least six feet apart.

It was a process that didn't happen overnight," said Principal Priscilla Hill of Yokota High School in western Tokyo. "We have an amazing community here at Yokota ... they found a way for us to have this because they knew it was important to the families here."

Yokota sent its 64 graduates on their way Thursday on the school football field. Nile C. Kinnick High School at Yokosuka Naval

See more photos from DODEA commencement ceremonies at stripes.com/go/japangum

Base hosted a similar ceremony Friday for 124 seniors.

"I'd like to thank all those who worked to ensure [our class] could have a graduation," Kinnick valedictorian Daniel Posthumus said during the commencement.

On Okinawa, 166 graduates at Kadena High School and 111 at Kubasaki High School followed their virtual graduations with drive-thru parades at Kadena Air Base on Friday and Camp Foster on Saturday in which students picked up their diplomas. The same held true for 88 graduates at Guam High School in Hagatna, which held a drive-up ceremony on Friday.

On the main island of Japan, 60 graduates at Zama American at Camp Zama and Matthew C. Perry High School's largest graduating class ever — 42 seniors — at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni supplemented their virtual graduations by crossing the schools' auditorium stages, in groups of six at Zama and family by family at Perry, on Wednesday and Thursday.

Robert D. Edgren at Misawa Air Base held a traditional ceremony Friday for its 42 graduates in one of the base aircraft hangars with two F-16s — the 35th Fighter Wing's signature aircraft — behind the stage.

E.J. King High School at Sasebo Naval Base held a ceremony for its 40 graduates Saturday at Nimitz Park.

Most students said they were happy to have graduations of any sort, after schools closed March 26 and learning was moved



DAVE ORNAUER/Stars and Stripes

Kubasaki High School senior Tina Davis is saluted with a Marine sabre arch Saturday while accepting her diploma during a ceremony at Camp Foster, Okinawa.

online. The spring sports season was also canceled and all Far East activities were called off.

"After everything that's been going on, I honestly didn't think we would be walking today," Kinnick senior Erica Advincula said Friday.

Graduates at Kinnick and Kubasaki walked on a red carpet under a traditional Marine sabre arch usually reserved for weddings. At Kadena and Kubasaki, the exchange and USO pitched tents and gave students graduation goodies. American Forces Network radio interviewed graduates during live broadcasts at Kadena and Foster.

"It's really nice despite the circumstances," Kadena graduate Sabrina Wracford

said Friday. "They made it really nice for us."

Not all students said they were happy with the process but were still glad that they could graduate and were looking ahead to the future.

"There's so much more we will accomplish in life," Perry senior Jalynn Kaufmann said Thursday. "We have future education, jobs, families and even more friends than we've made these past 12 years. So for that, I'm grateful."

Stars and Stripes reporters James Bolinger at Marine Corps Air Station Iwakuni; Theron Godbold at Camp Zama and Yokota Air Base; and Christian Lopez at Yokosuka Naval Base contributed to this report. ornaue.dave@stripes.com
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DODEA students get in-person graduations in South Korea

By KIM GAMEL
AND MATTHEW KEELER
Stars and Stripes

CAMP HUMPHREYS, South Korea — With elbow bumps and masks, seniors at Defense Department high schools in South Korea enjoyed rare in-person graduation ceremonies last week after months of online classes due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Humphreys High School graduates wore face masks along with their caps and gowns as they entered the gym for Thursday's ceremony, although most took them off after sitting in chairs placed several feet apart to ensure social distance.

Family and friends cheered from behind as the students walked across the stage to collect their diplomas after a series of speeches, then tossed their caps in the air in line with tradition.

Seniors at Osan Middle High School also participated in a ceremony Thursday at the Osan Air Base Theater.

The Daegu Middle High School held its commencement exercise Friday at Camp Walker, with school officials and graduates greeting each other with elbow



MATTHEW KEELER/Stars and Stripes

A crowd cheers for graduating seniors from Osan Middle High School, on Wednesday during a parade at Osan Air Base, South Korea.

See more South Korea graduation ceremony photos at stripes.com/go/koreagrads

bumps instead of handshakes.

The pandemic and protests against police brutality and racial injustice in the United States loomed over the pomp and circumstance.

"I stand before you today in

remembrance of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Eric Garner, Tamir Rice, Trayvon Martin and countless others whose voices have been silenced," Daegu valedictorian Kamala Kenny said in her speech.

Kenny, who is planning to attend Howard University in Washington, D.C., in the fall, called on her classmates to work for change.

"It's important that we all educate ourselves and stand up for what is right and what is righteous," she said.

Army Garrison Daegu schools, which sit in eponymous city at the heart of South Korea's initial outbreak, were the first to close as the Department of Defense Education Agency began sending students home and implementing virtual learning programs in late February.

However, the U.S. military has lifted many anti-coronavirus restrictions since South Korea has largely succeeded in flattening the rate of new infections. DODEA announced last month that schools would remain closed for the rest of the year but those in South Korea could hold in-person graduation ceremonies and other end-of-the-year activities to supplement online broadcasts.

Students welcomed the opportunity to salvage the final tradition of their high school career after so many others were canceled because of restrictions imposed to stem the spread of the virus.

"To say the least, we've had quite the unusual senior year," Osan valedictorian Kelly Kenyon,

who is headed to the University of Southern California, said Thursday in her speech.

"We have missed out on some of the most binding and anticipated moments of senior year — spring sports or a true senior prom and many other events," she said. "Class of 2020, your courage and resilience is a testament to your character. You've shown us all that we can persevere."

Osan had 42 graduates, including three seniors who were homeschooled but had enrolled for elective courses. Daegu had about 30 graduates and Humphreys had 142.

The military communities also feted the seniors with parades and special dinners to substitute for proms in the days leading up to the ceremonies.

On Wednesday, Camp Humphreys held a "reverse parade" in which the graduates hung out by light poles festooned with their photos, balloons and other decorations while people drove by honking and fire engines sounded their horns.

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MILITARY

Troop: German leadership criticizes Trump for lack of coordination in withdrawal

FROM FRONT PAGE

here," Knobloch, 55, said in an interview. "Restaurants are bilingual. There are mixed marriages, mixed families. You often hear from the older members of the community: 'The Americans liberated us.'"

There hasn't been much nostalgia between Trump and Merkel, who have clashed repeatedly over trade and Germany's slow timetable for meeting the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's defense spending target. Last month, Merkel snubbed Trump on his plan to hold an in-person Group of Seven summit in June which he'd like Russian President Vladimir Putin to attend.

While Trump has taken aim at Germany's economic might, Merkel — the longest-serving G-7 leader after 15 years in power — has stared him down across a broad front, from defending the rules-based global economy to policy disputes such as defense spending. A physicist by training, Merkel also contrasted with Trump in her science-based approach to reopening Germany

from its coronavirus-induced lockdown.

Lawmakers and government officials in Berlin criticized Trump's troop decision, which would cut U.S. forces in Germany by slightly more than a quarter, as a snub.

"These plans demonstrate once again that the Trump administration neglects a central element of leadership: the involvement of alliance partners in the decision-making process," Johann Wadephul, deputy head of Merkel's parliamentary caucus, said in an emailed statement.

Trump's decision and the way it was communicated hint at how much Germany's relations have cooled with a U.S. president who has publicly questioned NATO's value. By midday Saturday, the German government had no official word from Washington on the drawdown plan.

Green party lawmaker Tobias Lindner evoked Trump's appearances at NATO summits, where he has berated U.S. allies to step up defense spending and called Germany "a captive to Russia" for refusing to halt the Nord Stream



MARTIN EGNASIN/Stars and Stripes

German and American families explore U.S. Army and Bundeswehr tanks at the German American Volksfest at Grafenwoehr, Germany, last August.

2 gas pipeline project.

"Somebody who acts in this way can't show up in Brussels with the attitude of reminding alliance partners of their duties," Lindner said.

Even so, a U.S. troop reduction may make military sense, since Germany nowadays serves mostly as a hub for U.S. operations in other parts of the world such as the Middle East and North, said a

German government official who asked not to be named because the decision hasn't been publicly announced. Other key U.S. installations in Germany include Ramstein Air Base and the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center hospital.

Reports that Trump is considering further cuts and a possible troop shift to Poland have surfaced for at least two years.

Meanwhile, U.S. troop strength in Germany has dwindled to about 34,500 from a peak of 274,000 during the 1960s.

"Such a pullout would be regrettable in every way," Norbert Roettgen, a Merkel ally who heads the German parliament's foreign affairs committee, said in an interview with Funke Media Group. "I can't see any rational reason for the withdrawal."

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VIRUS OUTBREAK

Worldwide virus death toll reaches at least 400,000

By JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain — The confirmed global death toll from the COVID-19 virus reached at least 400,000 fatalities on Sunday, a day after the government of Brazil broke with standard public health protocols by ceasing to publish updates of the number of deaths and infections in the hard-hit South American country.

Worldwide, at least 6.9 million people have been infected by the virus, according to Johns Hopkins University, whose aggregated tally has become the main worldwide reference for monitoring the disease. Its running count says the United States leads the world with nearly 110,000 confirmed virus-related deaths. Europe as a whole has recorded more than 175,000 since the virus emerged in China late last year.

Health experts, however, believe that the Johns Hopkins tally falls short of showing the true tragedy of the pandemic.

Many governments have struggled to produce statistics that are reasonably considered as true

indicators of the pandemic given the scarcity of diagnostic tests especially in the first phase of the crisis. Authorities in Italy and Spain, with over 60,000 combined deaths, have acknowledged that their death count is larger than the story the numbers tell.

But Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro went as far as to tweet on Saturday that his country's disease totals are "not representative" of Brazil's current situation, insinuating that the numbers were actually overestimating the spread of the virus.

Critics of Bolsonaro, who has repeatedly clashed with health experts over the seriousness of the disease and has threatened to take Brazil out of the World Health Organization, said the decision was a maneuver by the hard-right style leader to hide the dens of crisis.

Brazil's last official numbers recorded over 34,000 virus-related deaths, the third-highest toll in the world behind the U.S. and Britain. It reported nearly 615,000 infections, putting it second behind the U.S.

After Bolsonaro stoked his

clash with health experts, Pope Francis cautioned people in countries emerging from lockdown to keep following authorities' rules on social distancing, hygiene and limits on movement.

"Be careful, don't cry victory, don't cry victory too soon," Francis said. "Follow the rules. They are rules that help us to avoid the virus getting ahead" again.

The Argentine-born pontiff has also expressed dismay that the virus is still claiming many lives, especially in Latin America.

Francis was clearly delighted to see several hundred people gathered below his window in St. Peter's Square on Sunday for the pope's noon blessing after Italy eased its restrictions on public gatherings.

Many countries like the U.S. and Britain insist that they can ease restrictions before having stalled their outbreaks.

In the U.S., the virus churns on underneath the unrest provoked by the death of George Floyd and increasingly directed at President Donald Trump's handling of the pandemic.

On Sunday, the U.K. revealed



LEO CORREA/AP

Relatives attend the burial Friday of Paulo Jose da Silva, 57, who died from COVID-19 in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

that places of worship can reopen from June 15 — but only for private prayer.

Worries have surfaced over the past couple of weeks that Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government is easing the restrictions too soon, with new infections potentially still running at 8,000 a day. As things stand, nonessential shops, including department stores, are due to reopen on June 15.

Professor John Edmunds, who attends meetings of the British government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, said the epidemic "is definitely not all over" and that there is an "awful

long way to go."

In France, the government announced that from Tuesday, it will ease restrictions limiting travel from the French mainland to overseas territories in the Caribbean and Indian Ocean.

Spain is preparing to take another step forward in the scaling back of its containment with Madrid and Barcelona opening the interiors of restaurants with reduced seating on Monday.

In Turkey, Istanbul residents flocked to the city's shores and parks on the first weekend with no lockdown, prompting a reprimand from the health minister.

Army garrison in Stuttgart lowers health threat level

By JOHN VANDIVER
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — The Army in Stuttgart eased its health threat level to condition Bravo, signaling a moderate risk of transmission and the return of garrison services, as the number of coronavirus cases continues to decline at what was once a hot spot.

Child Development Centers and gyms will open Monday at a reduced capacity to ensure social distancing, garrison commander Col. Jason Condey said in a town hall meeting Thursday.

Food courts and other indoor dining locations also will open Monday with capacity limits and mask requirements, Condey said. Playgrounds on post were slated to open Friday.

Stuttgart is the first Army garrison in Europe to relax its threat level, Installation Management Command Europe said Friday.

"In coordination with local host nation authorities, garrison commands across Europe are reviewing the health protection condition level of their installations or facilities based on the risk level in the local community," said Mark Heeter, IMCOM-Europe spokesman.

Other garrisons are working through plans to adjust the threat level status and open services as appropriate, with more expected



PAUL HUGHES/U.S. Army

A fitness center employee on Panzer Kaserne maneuvers a spin bike to set up physically distanced spin classes.

to move to Bravo "in the days ahead," Heeter said.

In March, the Army ordered health threat levels to be elevated to the second-highest level, condition Charlie, as coronavirus cases climbed within the ranks.

Stuttgart, which is home to U.S. European and Africa commands, reported 103 confirmed cases as of early April when the Pentagon directed commands to stop reporting local base tallies.

With more reported cases than any other overseas base, the garrison in Stuttgart imposed strict social distancing measures that included restrictions on the num-

ber of days personnel could visit commissaries and post offices.

Conditions continue to improve even though occasional cases "pop up," Condey said.

Local commanders have the authority to make decisions on when to open facilities and ease health protection levels. For the Air Force in Germany, Spangdahlem Air Base earlier this month also shifted to Bravo while Ramstein Air Base was still at Charlie as of Friday.

Stars and Stripes reporter Jennifer Swan contributed to this report.
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China defends coronavirus response in new report

By KEN MORITSUGU
Associated Press

BEIJING — Senior Chinese officials released a lengthy report Sunday on the nation's response to the coronavirus pandemic, defending their government's actions and saying that China had provided information in a timely and transparent manner.

China "wasted no time" in sharing information such as the genomic sequence for the new virus with the World Health Organization as well as relevant countries and regional organizations, according to the report.

An Associated Press investigation found that government labs sat on releasing the genetic map of the virus for more than a week in January, delaying its identification in a third country and the sharing of information needed to develop tests, drugs and a vaccine.

National Health Commission Chairman Ma Xiaowei did not address the specific findings in the AP report, but said it "seriously goes against the facts." He added that there were many unknowns in the early stage of the outbreak and that it took time to gather evidence and figure out the characteristics of the new virus.

"The Chinese government did not delay or cover up anything," he said. "Instead, we have immediately reported virus data and relevant information about the epidemic to the international community and made an impor-

tant contribution to the prevention and control of the epidemic around the world."

He ticked off a series of government actions from a detailed timeline in the government report. The timeline says that China began updating the WHO on a regular basis on Jan. 3 and that the head of China's Center for Disease Control and Prevention briefed the head of the U.S. CDC on Jan. 4.

U.S. officials have been critical of China's early response, adding to a deterioration of U.S.-China relations over trade and technology and pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong.

Asked how China would repair its relations with the rest of the world, Vice Foreign Minister Ma Xiaozu said that cooperation over the pandemic had improved ties with most other countries.

The report, which ran 66 pages in the English version, lauded China's success in reducing the daily increase in new cases to single digits within about two months and the "decisive victory

in the battle to defend Hubei Province and its capital city of Wuhan" in about three months. Wuhan, where the first cases of the virus were detected late last year, was the hardest-hit part of China in the outbreak.

The city and soon after much of Hubei province were locked down for 2 to 2½ months to stop the spread of the virus to the rest of the country.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Pandemic makes for a lonely D-Day observance

By **RAF CASERT**
Associated Press

COLLEVILLE-SUR-MER, France — At daybreak on Saturday, Charles Shay stood lonesome without any fellow veteran on the very same beach where he waded ashore 76 years ago, part of one of the most epic battles in military history that came to be known as D-Day and turned the tide of World War II.

Compared to last year, when many tens of thousands came to the northern French beaches of Normandy to cheer the dwindling number of veterans and celebrate three-quarters of a century of liberation from Nazi oppression, the coronavirus lockdown turned this year's remembrance into one of the eeriest ever.

"I am very sad now," said Shay, who was a 19-year-old U.S. Army medic when he landed on Omaha Beach under horrific machine-gun fire and shells. "Because of the virus, nobody can be here. I would like to see more of us here," he told The Associated Press.

Normally, 95-year-old Shay would be meeting other survivors of the 1944 battle and celebrating with locals and dignitaries alike, all not far from his home close to the beaches that defined his life.

"This year, I am one of the very few that is probably here," he said, adding that other U.S. veterans could not fly in because of the pandemic.

Still the French would not let this day slip by unnoticed, such is their attachment to some 160,000 soldiers from the United States, Britain, Canada and other countries who spilled their blood to free foreign beaches and fight on to finally defeat Nazism almost one year later.

"It's a June 6 unlike any other," said Philippe Laillier, the mayor of Saint-Laurent-sur-Mer, who staged a small remembrance around the Omaha Beach monument. "But still we had to do something. We had to mark it."

The moment the sun broke over the ocean, the Omaha Beach theme from the film "Saving Private Ryan" blared across the sand for a few dozen locals and visitors dressed in vintage clothing.

The pandemic has wreaked havoc across the world, infecting 6.6 million people, killing over 391,000 and devastating economies. It poses a particular threat to the elderly — like the surviving D-Day veterans who are in their late 90s or older.

It has also affected the younger generations who turn out every year to mark the occasion. Most



VIRGINIA MAYO/AP

Charles Norman Shay, D-Day WWII veteran and Penobscot Elder from Maine, salutes after laying a wreath during a D-Day 76th anniversary ceremony Saturday at the Normandy American Cemetery in Colleville-sur-Mer, Normandy, France.

have been barred from traveling to the windswept coasts of Normandy.

The lack of a big international crowd was palpable.

In the afternoon, a flyover of French fighter jets leaving a trail of the national colors was

reminiscent of the one President Donald Trump and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron watched from Colleville last year.

This time, though, only a sparse crowd craned necks upward.

At the American cemetery on a bluff overseeing Omaha Beach,

Shay went to pay his respects to over 9,000 servicemen, and again was the lone U.S. veteran at an intimate ceremony.

President Harry Truman's quote, "America will never forget their sacrifices," is etched into the cemetery's Orientation Pavilion.

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NATION

World rallies show, 'it's a global issue'

Associated Press

LONDON — Thousands of people took to the streets of European cities Sunday to show their support for the Black Lives Matter movement, with protesters in the English port of Bristol venting their anger at the country's colonial history by toppling a statue of a 17th-century slave trader.

Demonstrators attached ropes to the statue of Edward Colston before pulling it down to cheers and roars of approval from the crowd.

Images on social media show protesters appearing to kneel on Colston's neck, recalling the death of George Floyd in Minnesota on May 25 that has sparked worldwide protests against racism and police violence. Floyd, a black man, died after a white Minneapolis police officer pressed a knee on his neck even after he pleaded for air while lying handcuffed on the ground.

In London, thousands of people congregated around the U.S. Embassy for the second day running, making clear their message wasn't just aimed at America.

"Everyone knows that this represents more than just George Floyd, more than just America, but racism all around the world," said Darcy Bourne, a London-based student.

Protesters, many of whom were wearing face masks to pro-



BEN BIRCHALL, PA/AP

Protesters throw a statue of slave trader Edward Colston into Bristol harbor, during a Black Lives Matter protest rally, in Bristol, England, on Sunday in response to the recent killing of George Floyd in the U.S.

tect themselves from the coronavirus, were "using this time when they're out of work to unite and come together and make a change because it's been like this for too long now," she said.

Following clashes on Saturday at another demonstration in central London that saw 14 police officers injured, there were concerns that Sunday's demonstration might take a violent turn.

London Mayor Sadiq Khan said

violence was "simply not acceptable" and urged those protesting to do so lawfully while also maintaining social distancing. But most demonstrators didn't heed that call, packing themselves tightly in front of the U.S. Embassy.

Police said 14 officers were injured Saturday during clashes with protesters in central London that followed a largely peaceful Black Lives Matter demonstration

attended by tens of thousands.

Video footage online showed one mounted police officer colliding with a traffic light and striking the pavement before her horse bolted away. Police said the officer was hospitalized and her injuries weren't life-threatening.

Hundreds of people also formed a densely packed crowd Sunday in a square in central Manchester, kneeling in silence as a mark of respect for George Floyd.

In Hong Kong, about 20 people staged a rally in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement on Sunday outside the U.S. Consulate in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

"It's a global issue," said Quinland Anderson, a 28-year-old British citizen living in Hong Kong. "We have to remind ourselves despite all we see going on in the U.S. and in the other parts of the world, black lives do indeed matter."

Organizers called off the Hong Kong rally late Saturday because of the city's coronavirus restrictions. Those that still showed up gathered in groups of eight to follow size limits on public gatherings.

A rally in Rome's sprawling People's Square was noisy but peaceful, with the majority of protesters wearing masks to protect against coronavirus. Participants listened to speeches and held up handmade placards saying "Black Lives Matter" and "It's a White Problem."

In Spain, several thousand protesters gathered on the streets of Barcelona and at the U.S. Embassy in Madrid.

Many in Madrid carried homemade signs reading "Black Lives Matter," "Human rights for all" and "Silence is pro-racist."

Continue: Across the US, thousands takes to the streets

FROM FRONT PAGE

change, protesters gathered in dozens of places from coast to coast while mourners in North Carolina waited for hours to glimpse the golden coffin carrying the body of native son George Floyd, the black man whose death at the hands of Minneapolis police has galvanized the expanding movement.

Collectively, it was perhaps the largest one-day mobilization since Floyd died May 25 and came as many cities lifted curfews imposed following initial spasms of arson, assaults and smash-and-grab raids on businesses. Authorities have softened restrictions as the number of arrests plummeted.

Demonstrations also reached four other continents, ending in clashes in London and Marseille, France. In the U.S., Seattle police used flash bang devices and pepper spray to disperse protesters hurling rocks, bottles and what authorities said were "improvised explosives" that had injured officers, just a day after city leaders temporarily banned one kind of tear gas. Around midnight in Portland, a firework was thrown over the fence at the Justice Center, injuring a Missouri County deputy, Portland police Lt. Tina Jones said.

The largest U.S. demonstration appeared to be in Washington, where protesters flooded streets closed to traffic. On a hot, humid day, they gathered at the Capitol, on the National Mall and in neighborhoods. Some turned intersections into dance floors. Tents offered snacks and water.

At the White House, which was fortified with new fencing and extra security measures, chants and cheers were heard in waves. President Donald



JEFF CHU/AP

People march on the Golden Gate Bridge as traffic is stopped in San Francisco, on Saturday, at a protest over the death of George Floyd.

Trump, who has urged authorities to crack down on unrest, downplayed the demonstration, tweeting: "Much smaller crowd in D.C. than anticipated."

In Washington, D.C., dozens of National Guard troops from South Carolina were seen checking out of their hotel Sunday shortly before President Donald Trump tweeted he was giving the order to withdraw them from the nation's capital.

The troops, carrying gear and clothing, sipped coffee and smoked cigarettes as they waited for buses to take them to the airport.

Trump ordered guard troops into Washington to "dominate" the streets after some protests of Floyd's death turned violent. The city's mayor called on Trump last week to withdraw outside forces amid days of largely peaceful protests.

Elsewhere, the backdrops included some of the nation's most famous landmarks. Peaceful marchers mingled with motorists as they crossed the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco. Cars had been cleared from the Brooklyn Bridge as protesters streamed into Manhattan. They walked the boulevards of Hollywood and Nashville, Tenn., street famous for country music-themed bars and restaurants.

Barr again defends police move on demonstrators outside the White House

By MATT ZAPOTOSKY
The Washington Post

Attorney General William Barr on Sunday again defended the aggressive clearing by police of a crowd of largely peaceful demonstrators from outside Lafayette Square last week and lashed out at the media for its reports on the event.

In a testy interview on CBS's "Face The Nation," Barr said the methods used to push back the protesters — which included charging at them with mounted police and firing canisters that sent plumes of noxious smoke into the crowd — were appropriate when police "met resistance."

He gave an account of the incident that belied what reporters and demonstrators experienced — claiming, for example, that no tear gas was used, even though people at the scene were hit with a gas that stung their eyes and induced coughing. And he made the claim that pepper spray is "not a chemical irritant."

Park Police have conceded using "smoke canisters and pepper balls." At least one spent canister recovered from the streets outside the park June 1 by reporters was clearly labeled "Skat

Shell OC," a compound that, when it gets into the eyes and nose, causes searing pain, coughing and mucus secretion.

The police move, which has been widely condemned, came just before President Donald Trump addressed the nation and then walked across the cleared area so he could pose for a photo in front of St. John's Church.

Barr said police asked the crowd to move three times. Reporters on the scene and demonstrators said they could not make out any audible warnings. Barr said some in the crowd threw projectiles.

"They were not peaceful protesters," Barr said. "And that's one of the big lies that the media seems to be perpetuating at this point."

Asked on "Face The Nation" whether he would have done anything different in hindsight, Barr said, "I haven't studied the events retrospectively in detail, but I think in general, you had the qualified law enforcement officials with shields warning and moving a line slowly. They had marked officers moving slowly, directing people to move. And most people complied."

NATION

NYC curfew lifts early following peaceful rallies

Associated Press

NEW YORK — New York City lifted the curfew spurred by protests against police brutality ahead of schedule Sunday after a peaceful night, free of the clashes or ransacking of stores that rocked the city days earlier.

"I want to thank everybody who has expressed their views peacefully," Mayor Bill de Blasio said Sunday morning. "I made the decision to end the curfew. And honestly, I hope it's the last time we will ever need a curfew in New York City."

While the curfew was lifted, the mayor said a decision hadn't been made yet on whether to lift a ban on vehicles in Manhattan south of 96th Street after 8 p.m.

The 8 p.m. citywide curfew, New York's first in decades, had been set to remain in effect through at least Sunday, with officials planning to lift it at the same time the city enters the first

phase of reopening after nearly three months of shutdowns because of the coronavirus.

The move followed New York City police pulling back on enforcing the curfew Saturday as thousands took to the streets for another day of marches and rallies sparked by the May 25 death of George Floyd at the hands of Minneapolis police.

The mayor said police had arrested just four people and issued 24 court summonses on Saturday. There were more than 2,000 arrests made through Friday morning, with the largest number coming on Sunday and Monday, when hundreds were arrested as the police tried to control looting in Manhattan's shopping districts.

More than two hours after the curfew had passed Saturday night, groups of demonstrators continued to march in Manhattan and Brooklyn, while police monitored them but took a hands-off



CRAIG RUTLE/AP

Protesters and activists move along 6th Avenue Saturday, in New York. Protests continued following the death of George Floyd, who died after being restrained by Minneapolis police officers on May 25.

approach.

Local politicians and civil liberties advocates had called for an end to the 8 p.m. curfew, complaining that it causes needless friction when officers try to enforce it. But de Blasio had initially insisted the curfew would remain in place throughout the weekend.

The end of the curfew comes as New York City prepares to begin reopening some businesses Monday, including manufacturing and construction companies,

wholesalers and retailers. Retailers won't be allowed to have customers inside for another couple of weeks, but can let people pick up merchandise on the sidewalk or have it delivered.

Between 200,000 and 400,000 people are expected to head back to the workplace Monday in the city, many taking a subway system that most New Yorkers have avoided since March because of the difficulty of staying 6 feet away from other, potentially in-

fected passengers.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo reiterated his call for people who have attended the protest marches to get tested for the coronavirus.

"Get a test. Get a test," the governor said Sunday, adding that the state planned on opening 15 testing sites dedicated just to protesters so they can get results quickly. "I would act as if you were exposed, and I would tell people you are interacting with, assume I am positive for the virus."

Protesters topple Confederate statue in Virginia capital

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A small group of demonstrators toppled a statue of a Confederate general in the former capital of the Confederacy late Saturday, following a day of largely peaceful protests in the Virginia city.

The statue of Gen. Williams Carter Wickham was pulled from its pedestal in Monroe Park, a Richmond police spokeswoman said. She said she did not know if there were any arrests or damage done to the statue.

A rope had been tied around the Confederate statue, which has stood since 1891. The Richmond Times-Dispatch reported, adding that someone urinated on the statue after it was pulled down. Photos and video from the newspaper showed what appeared to be red paint splashed or sprayed on the statue.

In 2017, some of Wickham's descendants urged the city to remove the statue.

Confederate monuments are a major flashpoint in Virginia and elsewhere in the South. Confederate memorials began coming down after a white supremacist killed nine black people at a Bible study in a church in South Carolina in 2015 and then again after the deadly white nationalist rally in Charlottesville, Va., in 2017.

Last week, Gov. Ralph Northam announced that a state-owned statue of former Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee would be removed from its perch on the famed Monument Avenue "as soon as possible."

The Lee statue is one of five Confederate monuments along Monument Avenue, a prestigious residential street and National Historic Landmark district. Monuments along the avenue have been rallying points during protests in recent days over



ALEXIA WELCH EDLUND, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH/AP

The statue of Confederate Gen. Williams Carter Wickham lies on the ground after protesters pulled it down Saturday, in Monroe Park in Richmond, Va. The statue had stood in the park since 1891.

Floyd's death, and they have been tagged with graffiti, including messages that say "End police brutality" and "Stop white supremacy."

Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney last week announced plans to seek the removal of the other Confederate monuments along Monument Avenue, which include statues of Confederate President Jefferson Davis and Confederate Gens. Stonewall Jackson and J.E.B. Stuart. Those statues sit on city land, unlike the Lee statue, which is on state property.

Stoney said he would introduce an ordinance July 1 to have the statues removed. That's when a new law goes into effect, which was signed earlier this year by Northam, that undoes an existing state law protecting Confederate monuments and instead lets local governments decide their fate.

Wickham's statue stood in Monroe Park, about a mile away from the Lee statue and surrounded by the Virginia Commonwealth University campus.

2 Buffalo police officers charged with assault in shoving

Associated Press

BUFFALO, N.Y. — Two Buffalo police officers were charged with assault Saturday, prosecutors said after a video showed them shoving a 75-year-old protester in recent demonstrations over the death of George Floyd.

Robert McCabe and Aaron Torgalski, who surrendered Saturday morning, pleaded not guilty to second-degree assault. They were released without bail.

McCabe, 32, and Torgalski, 39, "crossed a line" when they shoved the man down hard enough for him to fall backward and hit his head on the sidewalk, Erie County District Attorney John Flynn said at a news conference, calling the victim "a harmless 75-year-old man."

The officers had been suspended without pay Friday after a TV crew captured the confrontation the night before. If convicted of the felony assault charge, they face up to seven years in prison.

McCabe's lawyer, Tom Burton, said after the arraignment that prosecutors didn't have any grounds to bring felony charges. He said his client is a decorated military veteran with a clean record as a police officer.

"Nobody started out their day intending to hurt this fellow," Burton said. He added that if the

victim had followed commands to back off, "none of this would have happened."

A phone message was left with Torgalski's lawyer.

The footage shows the man, identified as longtime activist Martin Gugno, approaching a line of helmeted officers holding batons as they cleared demonstrators from Niagara Square around the time of an 8 p.m. curfew.

Two officers push Gugno backward, and he hits his head on the pavement. Blood spills as officers walk past. One officer leans down to check on the injured man before another officer urges the colleague to keep walking.

The police officers "knew this was bad," Flynn said of the video. "Look at their body language."

The video of the encounter sparked outrage online as demonstrators take to cities across the country to protest racial injustice sparked by the death of George Floyd, a black man who died after a white police officer pressed a knee into his neck for several minutes.

"I think there was criminal liability from what I saw on the video," Gov. Andrew Cuomo said at a briefing Saturday. "I think what the mayor did and the district attorney did was right, and I applaud them for acting as quickly as they did."

NATION

Tropical Storm Cristobal closes in on Gulf Coast

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Tropical Storm Cristobal continued its advance toward the U.S. Gulf Coast early Sunday, having spawned a tornado in Florida.

Forecasters said that it would arrive on U.S. soil late Sunday, but was not expected to grow into a hurricane.

Squalls with tropical-force winds reached the mouth of the Mississippi River by Sunday morning and conditions were expected to deteriorate, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said. Cristobal's maximum sustained winds remained at 50 mph and it was moving north at 12 mph, centered around 75 miles southwest of the mouth of the Mississippi River.

But the storm already made its presence felt Saturday evening with a tornado that touched down near downtown Orlando, the National Weather Service said. The twister just missed a group of protesters at Lake Eola at around 7:30 p.m. There appeared to be no injuries, but tree limbs were knocked down and there were reports of power outages.

"Yes, it is related to the tropical storm that is well to our west," said Scott Kelly, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Melbourne, Fla. "But the tropical storm provided a lot of low-level shear and that has allowed for some tornadoes to form over central Florida."

The Hurricane Center said that the storm could cause heavy rains from East Texas to Florida



MAX BECHTOLD/The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate

Crews from the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East close the Bayou Road flood gate in St. Bernard Parish, La., on Saturday ahead of Tropical Storm Cristobal.

over the weekend and into this week. A tropical storm warning was posted for the northern Gulf of Mexico coast from Intracoastal City, La., to the Alabama-Florida border. Storm surge warnings and watches were in effect in Louisiana and Mississippi, with flooding up to 5 feet expected in some places.

Forecasters said that the storm's center will move inland across Louisiana late Sunday through early Monday, and then head north across Arkansas and Missouri on Monday afternoon and into Tuesday.

In Louisiana, Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency to prepare for the storm's

possible arrival.

"Now is the time to make sure plans, which should include the traditional emergency items along with masks and hand sanitizer as we continue to battle the coronavirus pandemic," Edwards said in a statement released Thursday.

On Friday, he asked President Donald Trump to declare a pre-

landfall emergency for the state due to the storm's threat.

"We are confident that there will be widespread, heavy rainfall and coastal flooding," Edwards said in a letter to the White House. "I anticipate the need for emergency protective measures, evacuations, and sheltering for the high-risk areas. The length of possible inundation is unknown and will likely require post-flood activities."

Jefferson Parish, a suburb of New Orleans, called for voluntary evacuations Saturday of Jean Lafitte, Lower Lafitte, Crown Point and Barataria because of the threat of storm surge, high tides and heavy rain. Residents were urged to move vehicles, boats and campers to higher ground.

"We want to make sure residents are safe as this storm approaches, so we are taking all the necessary precautions to be fully prepared," Jean Lafitte Mayor Tim Kerner Jr. told The Times-Picayune/The New Orleans Advocate.

A similar order was issued Saturday for several Plaquemines Parish communities, including Happy Jack, Grand Bayou, Myrtle Grove, Lake Heritage, Harlem and Monsecur. The parish's president, Kirk Lepine, said that the order was issued as a precaution.

"We need to ensure residents are protected as this storm draws near, so we are taking all the necessary precautions to be completely prepared," he said.

Zuckerberg-funded researchers: Hate on Facebook must be reined in

By FRANK BAJAK

Associated Press

BOSTON — Dozens of scientists doing research funded by Mark Zuckerberg said that Facebook should not be letting President Donald Trump use the social media platform to "spread both misinformation and incendiary statements."

The researchers, including 60 professors at leading United States research institutions, wrote the Facebook CEO on Saturday asking Zuckerberg to "consider stricter policies on misinformation and incendiary language that harms people," especially during the current turmoil over racial injustice.

The letter calls the spread of "deliberate misinformation and divisive language" contrary to the researchers' goals of using technology to prevent and eradicate disease, improve childhood education and reform the criminal justice system.

Their mission "is antithetical to some of the stances that Facebook has been taking, so we're encouraging them to be more on the side of truth and on the right side of history as we've said in the letter," said Debora Marks of Harvard Medical School, one of three professors who organized it.

The others are Martin Kampmann of the University of California-San Francisco and Jason Shepherd of the University of

Utah. All have grants from a Chan Zuckerberg Initiative program working to prevent, cure and treat neurodegenerative disorders, including Alzheimer's and Parkinson's disease.

They said that the letter had more than 160 signatories. Shepherd said that about 10% are employees of foundations run by Zuckerberg and his wife, Priscilla Chan.

The letter objects specifically to Zuckerberg's decision not to at least flag as a violation of Facebook's community standards Trump's post that stated "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" in response to unrest in Minneapolis over the videotaped murder of George Floyd, a black

man, by a white police officer. The letter's authors called the post "a clear statement of inciting violence."

Twitter had both flagged and demoted a Trump tweet using the same language.

In a statement, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative noted that the philanthropic organization is separate from Facebook and said that "we are grateful for our staff, partners and grantees" and "respect their right to voice their opinions, including on Facebook policies."

Some Facebook employees have publicly objected to Zuckerberg's refusal to take down or label misleading or incendiary posts by Trump and other politicians. But

Zuckerberg — who controls a majority of voting shares in the company — has so far refused.

On Friday, Zuckerberg said in a post that he would review "potential options for handling violating or partially-violating content aside from the binary leave-it-up or take-it-down decisions."

"I know many of you think we should have labeled the President's posts in some way last week," he wrote. "Our current policy is that if content is actually inciting violence, then the right mitigation is to take that content down — not let people continue seeing it behind a flag. There is no exception to this policy for politicians or newsworthiness."



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WORLD

Malta agrees to take in migrants held on boats

Associated Press

ROME — Malta agreed Saturday to take in some 400 migrants who had been held on chartered pleasure boats at sea pending negotiations with European Union countries to accept them.

The government said in a statement that it was still seeking agreements to relocate the migrants elsewhere in Europe. But it said it decided to let them come ashore "after the situation onboard the vessels became very difficult and commotions arose."

The migrants have been living aboard four boats just outside Malta's territorial waters, many for

weeks, after being rescued from human traffickers' unseaworthy vessels in the Mediterranean.

Malta chartered the pleasure boats after closing its ports due to the coronavirus emergency. It said it had been waiting for other EU nations to step up to take them in.

Last week, the Council of Europe's commissioner for human rights called for the migrants to be immediately brought to shore, saying the situation at sea was unsustainable.

For years, migrants setting off from Libya have paid smugglers to ferry them to Europe.



RENE ROSSIGNAUD/AP

Migrants dry their clothes aboard a tourist boat near Malta last week. Malta has agreed to take in the more than 400 migrants living aboard the vessels for now.

Police: Thief flees store, forgets his son

Associated Press

BERLIN — Police in Germany say they had an easy time tracking down a petty thief, after he forgot his own son at the scene of the crime.

Bautzen police said Saturday that the 29-year-old suspect ran off when the \$5.65 worth of goods he was trying to steal triggered an alarm at a supermarket checkout late Friday.

Police said the man's 8-year-old son was left behind "and so the culprit was quickly identified."

The suspect, a German, also managed to fall over during his escape, ending the day in the hospital, police said.

Great white shark kills surfer off the coast of Australian

Associated Press

SYDNEY — A 60-year-old surfer was attacked and killed by a 10-foot great white shark off the coast of northern New South Wales state on Sunday, officials said.

The man received a bite to the

back of his thigh and was brought to the shore by other surfers who had fought off the shark, a surf rescue group, Surf Life Saving NSW, said in a statement. The victim, from Tugun just over the state border in Queensland, received first aid on the shore but died on

the beach.

New South Wales Ambulance Inspector Terence Savage said it was a "dreadful" situation for everyone involved.

"When you get a call to attend a shark attack, you never really know the full extent of the damage

until you get on scene," he said. "They did everything they could to try and save his life, but despite their best efforts, were unable to do so."

Nearby beaches were cleared of swimmers and surfers and will remain closed for 24 hours.

It was the third fatal shark attack in Australia this year. In January, a diver was killed near Esperance off the Western Australia state coast. In April, a shark fatally mauled a 23-year-old wildlife worker on the Great Barrier Reef.

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Woman sentenced for giving gun to teenager

MT GREAT FALLS — A north-central Montana woman was sentenced to six months in federal prison for lying on paperwork to buy a handgun that she then gave to a teenager who later pointed it at her during an argument, U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme said.

A jury convicted Susan Kaytlin Scott of Shelby in January of false statements during a firearms transaction and transfer of a handgun to a juvenile.

Scott filled out paperwork at a sporting goods store in Great Falls to buy a Taurus 9 mm handgun in November 2018 and said she would be the owner, prosecutors said. She gave it to the teen, 17, as an early birthday present, prosecutors said.

Controversial mural to be removed from school

KY LEXINGTON — University of Kentucky President Eli Capiluto said a controversial mural at the school that has been the object of protest for its depictions of black people and Native Americans is coming down.

The mural, which has remained covered since a protest and hunger strike last year, "carries with it tremendous symbolic weight," Capiluto said.

"I want to remove that weight from the discussions we must have, so that we can act, together, as a community," he wrote.

The 1930s fresco mural by Ann Rice O'Hanlon shows the history of Lexington in a series of scenes, including black men and women planting tobacco and a Native American man holding a tomahawk. Efforts to remove the mural have been made since at least 2006.

Multiracial camps accused of being antifa

WA FORK — Authorities said a multiracial family camping on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington state was harassed and confronted by people who accused them of being political activists with antifa and trapped them at a remote campsite in the woods.

Sgt. Shaun Minks of the Clallam County Sheriff's Office said the family of four arrived in the town of Fork in an old converted school bus and stopped to buy camping supplies at a local store.

He said as they were leaving the store, the family was confronted by people in several vehicles who asked them if they were from antifa — short for "anti-fascists." The Peninsula Daily News reported the family told deputies that at least four vehicles followed them as they drove away.

Authorities said the family became concerned later when they heard gunshots and other commotion and decided to leave the campsite. However, trees had been felled across a road, trapping them. Four local high school students used a chainsaw to help clear the road for the family.



MARK MORAN, THE (WILKES-BARRE, PA.) CITIZENS' VOICE/AP

Cheers to reopening

Toasting a beer at Susquehanna Brewing Co. in Pittston, Pa., on the opening day of several restaurants and businesses offering outdoor seating, are front row from the left: Gina Giovannini, Michele Talmadge, Heather Loftus. Back: Sarah Bauman and Hollie Hood.

Couple accused of using cattle prod on kids

SD SIOUX FALLS — A South Dakota couple is accused of giving four children illegal drugs and of zapping them with a cattle prod to get them to comply with orders.

Investigators have recommended charging Lance Long, 36, and Crystal Lynn Long, 40, of Sioux Falls, with aggravated assault with a dangerous weapon, abuse or cruelty to a minor and numerous other counts. The Longs were jailed on a warrant of giving a controlled drug to a minor.

Minnehaha County sheriff's Capt. Josh Phillips said the abuse had been going on for several years. The children are related, and some are half-siblings, the Argus Leader reported.

The couple gave the children methamphetamine and marijuana and shocked them with a cattle prod "to get the children to obey commands or if they weren't listening," Phillips said.

Child hospitalized after suspected shark bite

DE LEWES — A boy, 12, was hospitalized after he was possibly bitten by a shark in Delaware.

The Daily Times of Salisbury, Md., reported that the incident occurred at a beach along Cape Henlopen State Park.

The incident prompted officials to close the park's Herring Point

THE CENSUS

\$80K

The approximate amount that the Hydrite Chemical plant in Waterloo, Iowa, will need to pay to settle its violations of the federal Clean Air Act. In April 2019 a worker at the plant received burns from liquid sulfur that spilled as it was being unloaded from a tanker rail car. The Environmental Protection Agency inspected the plant following the injury and found a large store of anhydrous ammonia, which it reported that Hydrite Chemical had failed to calculate and report and also failed to develop and implement procedures for safely handling it. The EPA said that Hydrite Chemical has since taken the necessary steps to return its facility to compliance.

to surfing and swimming until further notice.

The child was surfing when something bit his leg. He was rushed to a hospital and treated for puncture wounds. Experts are trying to figure out what kind of creature left the bite marks.

Reward offered to help identify dog's killer

RI NARRAGANSETT — An animal welfare organization is offering a \$500 reward for information that leads to the arrest and conviction of the person who shot a dog in the head and left the body in a Narragansett river.

Narragansett police in a Facebook post said the black, terrier-type dog was found in the Narragansett River inside what appeared to be black garbage bags.

The Rhode Island Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is offering the reward.

Slave auction block to be moved to museum

VA FREDERICKSBURG — A 176-year-old slave auction block has been removed from a Virginia city's downtown.

The 800-pound stone was pulled from the ground at a Fredericksburg street corner after the removal was delayed for months by lawsuits and the coronavirus pandemic, The Free Lance-Star reported.

The weathered stone was sprayed with graffiti twice and chants of "move the block" erupted during local demonstrations over the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, city officials said in a statement announcing the removal.

A local chapter of the NAACP called for the stone's removal in 2017, saying it was a relic of "a time of hatred and degradation" that was allowed to be displayed at a main thoroughfare in the city.

In 2019, the City Council voted in favor of its removal and relocation to the Fredericksburg Area Museum, and a judge upheld that decision in February after two businesses near the auction block sued to stop the relocation.

The museum now plans to display the knee-high stone in an exhibit chronicling the "movement from slavery to accomplishments by the local African American community," the Free Lance-Star said. The staff also plans to feature the recent protests in the exhibit, according to the museum's president and CEO.

Moped rider falls off bridge into marsh

NC WILMINGTON — Police in North Carolina said a moped rider was recovering in a hospital after he fell off a bridge and into a marsh.

The Wilmington Police Department said in a news release that Ian Jones, 32, was riding back and forth between lanes when his moped clipped a truck that was trying to pass him.

According to police, Jones was thrown off the moped and off the Isabel Holmes Bridge and into the marsh below. Jones was taken to a local hospital, and police said he was charged with failure to maintain lane. The news release said no charges were expected for the truck driver.

From wire reports

FACES

Duchess of Sussex speaks out about racial divisions in US

Meghan, the Duchess of Sussex, has shared her sadness about racial divisions in the United States, telling students at her former high school that she felt moved to speak out because the life of George Floyd mattered.

Meghan told graduates at Immaculate Heart High School in Los Angeles that she wrestled with the question of what to tell them given the days of protests after the May 25 death of Floyd, a handcuffed black man who pleaded for air as a white police officer pressed a knee on his neck in Minneapolis.

She said her nervousness arose because her words would be "picked apart," but she decided to speak anyway.

"I realized the only wrong thing to say is to say nothing, because George Floyd's life mattered," she said in the virtual address June 3.

The former Meghan Markle, who is biracial, said the unrest reminded her of the riots that took place in her hometown of Los Angeles after police officers were acquitted in the video-taped beating of Rodney King in 1992.

"I remember the curfew, and I remember rushing back home and on that drive home, seeing ash fall from the sky and smelling the smoke and seeing the smoke billow out of buildings and seeing people run out of buildings, carrying bags and looting," she said. "And I remember seeing men in the back of a van holding guns and rifles, and I remember pulling up to the house and seeing the tree that had always been there, completely charred. And those memories don't go away."

Meghan and her husband Prince Harry, who is a grandson of Queen Elizabeth II, are seeking a new life in California after stepping away from royals duties earlier this year. They have sought to independently shape their image and speak out on issues important to them.

Meghan said she wished the graduates were starting their young lives in a better world.

"I know sometimes people say, 'how many times do we need to rebuild?'" she said. "Well, you know what? We are going to rebuild and rebuild and rebuild until it is rebuilt. Because when the foundation is broken, so are we."

From The Associated Press



Action through music

Indie artists unite against racism on 90-track album

By JIM HARRINGTON
The Mercury News

Indie music artists are joining in the chorus of voices decrying police brutality on the black community.

Phantogram, Jesse Malin, Jay Watts, Matthew Caws of Nada Surf, Barteaux Strange, Lonemoon, Rogue Wave, Lateef the Truthspeaker, Crashing Hotels, Nick Andre, Worriers, Sulene, Zerohunk and Damon & Naomi are among the acts who have contributed to "Talk - Action = Zero," a compilation album of previously unreleased music, demos, live recordings and other material now available on bandcamp.com.

Organizers said the album features some 90 songs from more than 90 artists, most of whom work with Bank Robber Music and Rough Trade Publishing, the two organizations that curated the project. It was "created in reaction to the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery and the countless other acts of violence against Black people that happen every day due to systemic racism, white supremacy and police brutality," according to a news release.

"We as a small company have always been committed to our artist community, but it would be a disservice to not recognize that the music we love and the roster of artists we represent are influenced by Black culture," says Emily Roman of Bank Robber Music. "The artist and the Black

community are in the midst of changing times. We wanted to use our platform to amplify the two communities that allow us to do what we love every day in this industry."

"We are extremely grateful for all the artists we work with who quickly mobilized to be a part of this benefit compilation; We are here for our artists, and we stand with Black Lives Matter. This is the time to dive in, dig deep and take action."

Buyers are asked to pay what they can for the album; there is a suggested price of \$20. The release benefits Black Visions Collective, a "Black-run organization based in Minnesota that aims to develop Minnesota's emerging Black leadership, heal the Black community through justice, support the local LGBTQ+ community, organize powerful, strategic campaigns and build movements from the ground up," according to the news release.

The whole project took less than a week to come together, "based on the eagerness of so many artists to contribute to take action by making a unified statement against white supremacy, racism and police brutality while actively raising funds for a pro-Black organization," according to a news release.

According to Rolling Stone, Bandcamp is waiving all fees for the content, which was released on its site June 5, meaning that all proceeds go to artists and designated charities.

Sarah Barthel of Phantogram, shown in 2017, is among the artists decrying police brutality on the black community in the compilation album "Talk - Action = Zero," available on bandcamp.com.

Boyea's fiery speech inspires solidarity from Star Wars pals

By DESSI GOMEZ
Los Angeles Times

Star Wars actor John Boyega risked professional fallout and delivered a powerful speech at a Black Lives Matter protest in London's Hyde Park on June 3.

His impassioned remarks about George Floyd's killing in Minneapolis highlighted racism and police brutality in Boyega's native United Kingdom and resonated worldwide.

"I'm speaking to you from my heart. Look, I don't know if I'm going to have a career after this, but (expletive) that," he said.

Boyea's presence at the protest went viral, earning him broad praise from Hollywood and particularly from his Star Wars family.

"You KNOW that as long as I'm allowed to keep working, I'll always be begging to work with you. Deep respect and love, my friend," J.J. Abrams, who directed "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "The Rise of Skywalker," tweeted at the English actor, who portrayed Finn in the franchise.

Gripping a megaphone, Boyega, 28, was often overwhelmed with emotion.

"This is very vital. Black lives have always mattered. We have always been important. We have always meant something. We have always succeeded, regardless. And now is the time. I ain't waiting!" he said, his voice growing coarse amid others' cheers.

Lucasfilm and the official Star Wars Twitter accounts tweeted statements of solidarity and support.

Star Wars icon Mark Hamill was impressed too: "Never been more proud of you, John," he tweeted, signing his message with "(love), dad."



DAN KITWOOD/Getty Images

John Boyega addresses a crowd of protesters at a Black Lives Matter protest June 3 in London's Hyde Park.

What we know about Rowling's new, not-'Harry Potter' story

By ELLEN GRAY
The Philadelphia Inquirer

The publication of a new J.K. Rowling story has been accompanied by hints of robbed children, parents and wizard wannabes waiting outside bookshops to pluck the first volumes from the piles at the stroke of midnight.

That won't be happening, or at least not until late fall, for "The Ickabog," a children's story that the "Harry Potter" author began releasing free online late last month to entertain kids in lockdown. Her plan is to continue to publish "a chapter (or two, or

three) every weekday" until July 10.

"I think 'The Ickabog' lends itself well to serialisation because it was written as a read-aloud book (unconsciously shaped, I think, by the way I read it to my own children), but it's suitable for 7-9 year olds to read to themselves," Rowling writes on her website, jkrowling.com.

As of June 3, 13 chapters of "The Ickabog" were available at theickabog.com, where young readers are also being invited to help illustrate the story, for possible use in editions to be published in November. Rowling is pledging her royalties to help groups that "have been particularly im-

pacted by the pandemic."

What we know so far: "The Ickabog" has introduced a spoiled, not very bright king, Fred the Fearless (he added the fearless part), who rules the largely prosperous kingdom of Cornucopia. It has also laid out the legend of the monster Ickabog, who figures in stories that have been passed down by generations of the less prosperous Marshlanders who live on the fringes of Cornucopia.

Where it came from: "The idea for 'The Ickabog' came to me while I was still writing 'Harry Potter,'" writes Rowling. Her plan had been to publish it after the

last of the "Potter" series, but instead she decided to take a break from writing for children. (She has been writing a series of detective stories under the pen name Robert Galbraith.) "The Ickabog" manuscript went into the attic. When she brought up the idea of publishing it online, her two children, now teenagers, were "touchingly enthusiastic."

How kids can get involved: Illustrations by artists 7 to 12 years old can be entered to a contest run by the book's publishers for possible inclusion in their country's edition of the book. Details can be found at theickabog.com/competition.

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OPINION

A 1946 lynching is still haunting us

By GEORGE F. WILL

Washington Post Writers Group

To place today's racial tensions in perspective, you must remember this: Back in the day, post-lynching souvenir hunting—fragments from the hanging tree; victims' body parts—was a hobby for some. A student who found a victim's tooth at Moore's Ford Bridge in July 1946 gave it to his girlfriend for her charm bracelet. The past really is another country.

On July 25, 1946, Roger Malcom, a black 24-year-old, was released from jail on bail after the charge against him was reduced from murder to attempted murder because the white man he had stabbed during an altercation was going to live. Malcom, his wife and another black couple were being driven home by the white farmer who had posted the bail, and who before the lynching was heard to say, "All these damn [N-word] went to the army and come back and think themselves something." The car was stopped by more than 20 armed white men, none of them masked, at the bridge over the Apalachee River about 50 miles from Atlanta. The mob evidently planned to murder only Malcom until his wife called out the name of someone in the mob, which then took both couples to the riverbank and shot them all at least 60 times.

The South was simmering in 1946, as nearly half a million African American soldiers returned to the region with uniforms, decorations and attitudes dangerous to social norms of subjugation. On Feb. 12, Sgt. Isaac Woodard Jr. was blinded by a

South Carolina police chief who slammed his nightstick into Woodard's eyes, news of which horrified President Harry Truman. On Feb. 25, a veteran's insufficient deference ignited a riot that destroyed the black business district in Columbia, Tenn.

On May 9 in Georgia, the Ku Klux Klan staged a mass cross-burning on Stone Mountain. After a 1944 U.S. Supreme Court decision overturning all-white primaries, black Georgians were eligible to vote on July 17, and Eugene Talmadge, who bragged of flogging his black farm workers, was campaigning (successfully) for a fourth term as governor, warning that if he lost, white politicians would henceforth have to "go to [blacks'] homes and knock on their doors with hat in hand, shake hands with all of them, and kiss the babies."

FBI agents questioned 2,790 locals in the Moore's Ford killings, filled 10,000 pages of investigative reports and issued 106 subpoenas to a December grand jury (21 white men; two black men). It concluded: "We have been unable to establish the identity of any person" in that mob of undisguised men who called one another by their names, and whose leader, according to the driver of the car, said, "Git them women. Bring 'em over here. They know too much."

This story, or as much of it as can presently be known, is meticulously told in "Fire in a Canebreak: The Last Mass Lynching in America" (2003) by Laura Wexler, who picked up the baton of the late historian Anthony Pritch. Wexler is supporting the effort of Joseph J. Bell, a New Jersey lawyer, to make public the only extant information about this atrocity: the grand jury records.

Why Mullen and Mattis suddenly broke their silence

By DAVID IGNATIS

Washington Post Writers Group

The military establishment's anger at President Donald Trump's politicization of the armed forces has been building for three years. It finally ripped open in the aftermath of last Monday's appalling presidential "photo op" at St. John's Episcopal Church.

The break was a decisive moment in the Trump presidency. But such inflection points are mysterious. Why does a bridge that has carried a million vehicles suddenly collapse when one million heavy load trucks across? It's not a linear process but a sudden discontinuity. Mathematicians call it "catastrophe theory."

The catastrophe last Monday was that Trump was advocating what military officers dread most. He was preparing to mobilize the armed forces to suppress protests by American citizens against racial injustice and police brutality. For military officers who have sworn an oath to defend the Constitution, this was overload. The structure cracked.

The most dramatic break came from retired Marine Corps Gen. Jim Mattis. For the 18 months since his resignation as secretary of defense in December 2018, Mattis had been asserting a "duty of silence" as a former military commander, not directly criticizing the president. Many had pressed Mattis to speak out, but he had been adamant.

This bridge of silence toppled Wednesday, when Mattis released a statement expressing the rage he has long felt as he watched Trump demean the military and its professionalism. Mattis wrote for the history books: "Donald Trump is the first president in my lifetime who does not try to

unite the American people—does not even pretend to try. Instead, he tries to divide us. We are witnessing the consequences of three years of this deliberate effort."

The stage for Mattis' exhortation was set by several prior events, which are crucial in understanding last Monday's inflection point. The first was an opinion piece published in the Atlantic on Tuesday afternoon by retired Adm. Mike Mullen, former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mullen, like Mattis, had been reluctant to use his military credentials to challenge Trump.

But Mullen had reached his choke point. His piece, titled "I Cannot Remain Silent," challenged Trump's consideration of using active-duty troops to put down the protesters: "I am deeply worried that as they execute their orders, the members of our military will be co-opted for political purposes." Mullen also condemned "police brutality and sustained injustices against the African American community."

Mullen had put down a marker. Many feared that Mattis would follow, but why he had not already made a statement like Mullen's: "Mattis' blistering message eventually came, it was worth the wait."

This drama has a final, largely invisible chapter that involves Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Mark Esper, the defense secretary. They accompanied Trump on that walk across Lafayette Park, Milley in uniform. It was a decision they would both deeply regret.

Milley had already told the president that it would be a mistake to invoke the Insurrection Act of 1807 and call out active-duty troops. Yet Trump told governors last Monday that he was putting Milley "in charge" of a military response. The argument came to a head in the Oval Office that day, before the walk across Lafayette

In 2017, a federal court ruled that those records should be unsealed. In March, however, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 11th Circuit held that federal courts have no authority over district courts' supervision of grand jury proceedings. There is, however, disagreement among the circuits, so there will be an appeal to the Supreme Court.

Government secrecy is essential to protect the sources, methods and fruits of intelligence-gathering, and to facilitate deliberative processes. But all government secrecy is, as Daniel Patrick Moynihan said, regulation. Most regulations tell us what we cannot do; secrecy tells us what we cannot know. Regarding Moore's Ford, we cannot know about the social dynamics that obstructed justice in the most lurid crime in the year that lit the fuse that blew up Jim Crow.

In 2011, Attorney General Eric Holder's Justice Department recommended amending the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure "to allow district courts to permit the disclosure, in appropriate circumstances, of archival grand-jury materials of great historical significance." The reasons for grand jury secrecy are compelling. Holder said, but "do not forever trump all compelling considerations." And "most other categories of historically significant federal records, including classified records, eventually become part of the public historical record."

Today, Bell, Wexler and others ask about the Moore's Ford lynching: When is a cold case that should be, but is not, part of our national memory too cold to learn more about? Their correct answer: never.

Park.

A burly man whose temper can match Trump's, Milley was vocal in reiterating his advice to the president against mobilizing troops, according to three knowledgeable sources. Mullen and Mattis knew that Milley had taken this precarious position when they spoke out publicly, in part to support his effort to resist the calling up of the military. Trump hasn't yet invoked the Insurrection Act, perhaps because he has weighed the private caution from his chief military adviser.

Milley, dressed in the baggy camouflage uniform that commanders wear in war zones, briefly wandered the streets after the church incident. It was the wrong image, but he expressed the correct sentiment the next day in a message to troops around the world: "As members of the joint force—comprised of all races, colors and creeds—you embody the ideals of our Constitution."

Esper has been walking a political tightrope, trying to support Milley without contradicting the president. That awkward two-step hasn't worked very well, with Esper seeming to disagree with the president in press contacts Tuesday night and Wednesday, and then challenging reports his views were any different from Trump's. Like others who seek to repress the Trump's good graces, Esper seemed to be playing both sides.

It was Esper who unintentionally offered an epitaph for this hinge moment in American history. Of his walk to the church, Esper said, "I didn't know where I was going." Whatever he intended, Esper was allowing the armed forces to be manipulated as a political prop. The military fought back hard—and correctly—against this abuse.

OPINION

Netanyahu may not see the risks in annexation

By DENNIS ROSS

Special to The Washington Post

One late night, while I sat with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in the middle of negotiating what would become the Hebron protocol, he told me "I will do what Ben-Gurion did." I knew he was a disciple of the "revisionist" movement, bitter enemies of David Ben-Gurion, so I said, "you mean Menachem Begin." And he shot back: "No, not Begin, Ben-Gurion — he did the big stuff."

As I wrestled to understand why Netanyahu seems so determined to press ahead with annexation of the West Bank territories allotted to Israel in the Trump plan, I began to think again about that conversation. Netanyahu is a no-holds-barred Israeli politician, yet throughout his tenure as prime minister he has been risk-averse when it comes to national security.

But as Jordan's King Abdullah declares that annexation will trigger a "massive conflict," Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas says all agreements with Israel will end, Josep Borrell, the European Union's foreign minister, threatens consequences if Israel goes ahead, and Joe Biden, who might be the U.S. president next January, expresses his opposition, Netanyahu seems determined to carry out the move, beginning July 1.

Ben-Gurion — against expected U.S. opposition and the certainty of invasion by Arab states — declared Israel a state. He knew the cost would be high, but he believed he did not have a choice. As the British presence and mandate ended, there might never again be the pretext and justification to do so. Yes, Israel paid a terrible price, losing 6,000 lives, almost 1% of its population, in its war of independence. But for Ben-Gurion, who was determined to end 2,000 years of Jewish homelessness, the cost of inaction was greater.

Netanyahu now sees his unique Ben-Gurion moment. He believes that the Trump administration permits him to set Israel's borders to the east, keeping areas he regards as critical to Israeli security, and to create a new baseline for any negotiations



DEED BALUYAT/PA

Protesters hold signs during a demonstration against the Israeli police after border police officers shot and killed Iyad al-Halaki, an unarmed autistic Palestinian man, in the mixed Arab Jewish city of Jaffa, near Tel Aviv, Israel, after saying they suspected he was carrying a weapon, on May 31. The sign in Hebrew reads "Murderers in uniform."

that might take place in the future with the Palestinians. The baseline would no longer be the June 4, 1967, lines but the Trump plan: up to 70% of the West Bank rather than 100%.

Much like Ben-Gurion in 1948, he sees a historic opportunity. But unlike Ben-Gurion, who knew the costs would be great, Netanyahu sees little risk. There were Cassandra-like warnings about violence erupting if Trump moved the U.S. Embassy and recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital; there were warnings about U.S. recognition of Israeli sovereignty in the Golan; and there were warnings about the Trump peace plan — but nothing materialized in any of these cases.

In Netanyahu's eyes, Abbas' threats to end all cooperation and turn the Palestinian Authority to Israel are not new and ring hollow — after all, security cooperation with Israel protects Abbas and the PA

leadership from Hamas and others, and Abbas et al. won't let the PA collapse because it means losing all they have.

Jordan, on the other hand, depends on American financial assistance more than ever and cannot afford to jeopardize it; other Arab leaders care more about preserving Israel's quiet help against Iran and the Muslim Brotherhood than the Palestinians; and the European Union acts on the basis of consensus, with Hungary almost guaranteed to block any sanctions.

But I suspect Netanyahu is wrong about both the gains and the risks.

First, if Biden wins and reverses recognition of the annexation and repudiates the Trump plan, there will be no new baseline, especially with no one internationally accepting the Israeli action. Second, Netanyahu ignores that the limited responses to Trump's decisions on Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and his peace plan were all

about American moves, not Israel's. Now it will be Israel acting and imposing an outcome. Palestinians will feel compelled to show they will not acquiesce; Palestinian security personnel justify their role as being necessary to fulfill Palestinian national aspirations, not guarantee Israeli annexation of what is perceived to be their territory. Their behavior, and even the survival of the PA, already reeling economically, cannot be taken for granted. Chaos and violence could result.

Third, Abdullah's options may be limited, but annexation of the Jordan Valley would force him to react and quite possibly suspend Jordan's peace treaty with Israel.

Fourth, consensus in the EU may not exist to impose sanctions, but it is needed to extend existing programs in Israel. Will the EU's Program for Research and Innovation, which invests heavily in Israel's research and development sector, continue? Don't bet on it.

There are other risks, including the possibility of a new American administration not defending Israeli annexation in the United Nations Security Council, and the International Criminal Court seizing on annexation as a more legitimate pretext for acting against Israel.

Of course, Netanyahu could decide to limit the scope of annexation only to settle ment bloc areas likely to be part of Israel in any realistic peace settlement, and he could declare that he is doing so to give the Palestinians a chance to negotiate before taking additional steps. That might defuse the reaction from everyone except the Palestinians. For them, a threshold will have been crossed.

In the end, Netanyahu could be right, and I could be wrong about his calculation. But there is a critical difference. If I am wrong, Israel will still control the territory and lose nothing. If Netanyahu is wrong, Israel stands to lose a great deal.

Dennis Ross, a former special assistant to President Barack Obama, is the counselor and William Davidson distinguished fellow at the Washington Institute. He is the co-author of "Be Strong and of Good Courage: How Israel's Most Important Leaders Shaped its Destiny."

Young people might not loot if they had more at stake

By NOAH SMITH

Bloomberg Opinion

The vast majority of the Americans pouring into the country's streets over the past week have been peaceful protesters. Their cause — decrying police brutality and expressing outrage over the brutal police slaying of black Minneapolis man George Floyd — is a just one, enjoying broad support from the public. The protests have generated a sharp increase in support for the Black Lives Matter movement and a growing awareness of the racism that still plagues the U.S.

But some of the protesters turned violent, looting stores in a number of major cities and even burning down buildings. While a tiny number of those are right or left extremists intent on sparking civil unrest, much of this violent fringe probably is made up of nothing more than disaffected young people. What is driving them to tear down the cities around them?

One obvious factor is the coronavirus pandemic that kept most people shut in their homes for the past 10 weeks. A combination of fear of the virus and shelter-in-place orders have wreaked havoc on the pursuit of daily life pleasures. Many are only were simple pleasures like a night out

at the restaurant unavailable, but constant confinement and lack of personal social interaction inflicted an emotional toll. And the grim drumbeat of rising death numbers, coupled with the fear of the virus itself, added to this isolation to create huge psychological stress. Surveys show that young people were particularly affected.

That stress had to have been a factor in turning a few young people to looting and arson.

And it's not just coronavirus and lockdowns that are threatening the youth; it's the economic devastation they've already endured with more sure to follow. Youth unemployment is even higher than at the peak of the last recession.

For now, incomes are being sustained by unemployment insurance and other government relief programs. But the loss of those jobs, and the enormous uncertainty about which industries might thrive in the post-pandemic world, means that young people's economic future is now a fog. That is bound to generate yet more stress and frustration.

But that economic gloom comes on top of a decades-long series of economic changes that have made life harder and less certain for young Americans. As economist Raj Chetty and others have documented, a combination of rising inequality and fall-

ing growth mean young adults are less likely than ever to wind up earning more than their parents.

Downward mobility undoubtedly generates a sense of despair and helplessness among many. And income is only one way in which young people are struggling to do as well as their parents did; they're also having more trouble building wealth.

One reason is because of the huge student loans that many young people have taken out to pay for college and have a shot at a good career. A combination of rising debt and stagnating incomes means that these loans have been taking ever longer to pay off, hanging over many people in their 20s, 30s and even 40s, tying them to jobs they don't like, preventing them from starting their own businesses and making them fear unemployment even more.

A second reason is that many young people have been shut out of the housing market. High prices, low incomes and higher student debt have reduced rates of homeownership among the millennial generation — a traditional escalator into middle-class wealth.

These factors have combined to make millennials the first postwar generation to be less wealthy than the prior generation. At a median age of 35, baby boomers owned 20% of the nation's wealth; even be-

fore coronavirus struck, millennials were on track to own perhaps only 5%.

These economic factors were not the cause of the protests; police brutality was. But at least some of the young people who have been brutal might not have done so if they had had a greater financial stake in the system. Surveys and psychological studies of looters have generally found that economic resentment plays a large role. For some young people, a gleaming storefront window represents an out-of-reach dream of better goods that they can't afford and only available to those with jobs that they can't get. In the age of coronavirus, those jobs and consumer goods are even more out of reach.

To ensure that future episodes of protest don't give rise to looting, the U.S. needs to have less brazen and more effective policing. But its economy and social system also needs to give young Americans more of a stake in keeping the system intact. Government subsidies can encourage companies to hire more young people and make it easier for them to buy homes and go to college cheaply. Many fewer people will risk smashing a store window if doing so would risk a job and a nest egg.

Noah Smith is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. This column does not necessarily reflect the opinion of the editorial board or Bloomberg LP and its owners.

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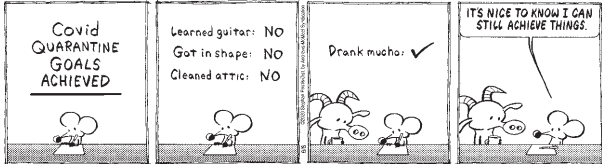
Frazz



Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



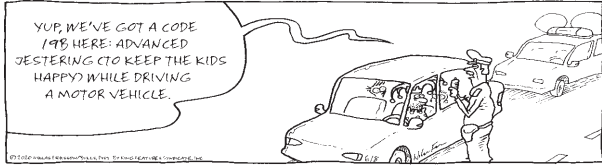
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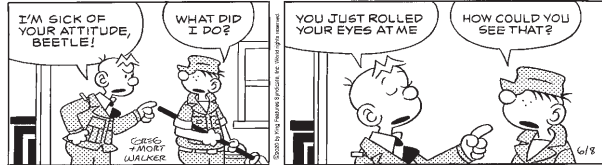
Candorville



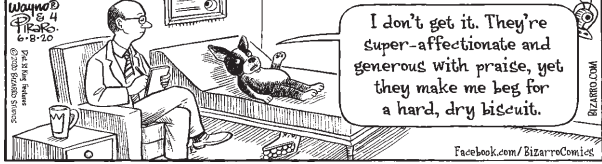
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10
11			12		13			14			
15					16			17			
18				19		20		21			
		22		23		24			25	26	27
28	29	30			31		32				
33				34	35		36				
37				38		39		40			
41				42		43					
			44		45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52		53		54		55			
56				57				58			
59				60					61		

ACROSS

- Resort
- Köln cry
- "The Lion King" lioness
- Reed and Rawls
- Jr.'s son
- Actor Clive
- Pakistani language
- British rule of India
- Hot
- Royal authority
- Honolulu's isle
- Lingus
- Breakfast rolls
- "The Flintstones" city
- Gymnast
- Comaneci
- Monumental
- Be sick
- Eyeglass frames
- Man of morals?
- Campaign events
- Explorer
- Hernando
- Timetable abbr.
- Hoopster Malone
- Milk dispenser
- "Star Wars" knight
- MSN alternative
- Fashion magazine
- Great Lake
- Firsties

DOWN

- Disparaging remark
- Skin opening
- German car name
- Melody
- Pisa farewell
- Muslim woman's garment
- Fruit juice specification, at times
- Shock partner
- Superman foe
- Luthor
- Whatever number
- Sweet bakery buys
- Prefix with natal
- Solo of "Star Wars"
- TV pioneer
- Redact
- Gimlet garnish
- Back talk
- Rosary component
- Duel tool
- Univ. paper
- Tease
- Director Ang
- School org.
- A/C stat
- Emulate Lincoln
- Challah unit
- 554, to Cato
- Exile isle
- Take five
- Lustrous black
- Historic time
- Carried out
- Set afire

Answer to Previous Puzzle

A	L	O	H	A	C	A	N	A	L
A	D	O	R	E	S	A	R	I	S
T	I	G	E	R	S	M	E	N	T
I	D	O	R	E	U	P	S	U	N
M	A	U	L	T	S	A	S	T	E
E	S	T	E	E	B	R	E	W	E
O	R	I	O	L	E	S	A	N	G
P	E	N	S	O	P	S	E	T	H
E	M	S	C	A	D	R	E	O	O
D	O	T	C	O	M	A	S	T	R
S	V	E	L	T	E	W	A	N	G
E	P	E	E	S	N	I	T	E	S

6-8

CRYPTOQUIP

YWYNILK QNFHSLI LPWNM L

FQLII SDHSAOR MDLM IHAOF

MW YOKZWKQ LKHLF: "MDO

PLRMLQ WZ MDO WYOKL."

Saturday's Cryptoquip: IT'S BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT FOR ME TO GET OUT OF BED EACH DAY. WHY IS MY WAKENING WEAKENING?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

NBA/SPORTS BRIEFS

League clears up tiebreaker plans for playoff seeds

By TIM REYNOLDS
Associated Press

MIAMI — The NBA has told teams that playoff seeding will be based on winning percentage, and that any tiebreakers necessary after that will follow the usual procedures.

It was an issue that needed clarity because the 22 teams that will be going to the Disney complex near Orlando, Fla., for the planned resumption of the season next month will not have played the same number of games.

The NBA told teams of the plan for utilizing tiebreakers in a memo late Friday.

Based on the league plan for the restart, with games starting again in late July, Dallas will end up playing an NBA-high 75 contests. Most others will play between 72 and 74, the low total will be 71, which San Antonio and the Los Angeles Lakers will finish as if the NBA's plans for teams to play eight games at the Disney complex before the playoffs begin comes to fruition.

The NBA has not yet revealed how team schedules will be adjusted once play resumes without Atlanta, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, Detroit, Golden State, Minnesota and New York taking part in the remainder of the 2019-20 season.

There are some playoff races that are particularly close and where the teams involved will end up playing a different number of games.

In the East, Brooklyn and Orlando are separated by a half-game and the Nets will end up

Spurs' Popovich decries the 'nonchalant' way Floyd died

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he's "embarrassed as a white person" that George Floyd could die in such a "nonchalant" manner.

The 71-year-old Popovich addressed Floyd's death in a video released Saturday by the Spurs as part of the team's #SpursVoices social media series.

Floyd was in handcuffs when a Minneapolis police officer pressed his knee into his neck as he pleaded that he couldn't breathe. Derek Chauvin is charged with third-degree murder and second-degree manslaughter.

"In a strange, counterintuitive sort of way, the best teaching moment of this recent tragedy, I think, was the look on the officer's

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	18	.719	—
Boston	43	21	.672	3 1/2
Philadelphia	39	26	.600	7
Brooklyn	30	34	.469	16
New York	21	45	.318	26

Southeast Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	41	24	.631	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11
Washington	24	40	.375	16 1/2
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18
Atlanta	20	47	.299	22

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	12	.815	—
Indiana	39	26	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31
Detroit	20	46	.303	33 1/2
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Dallas	40	27	.597	1 1/2
Memphis	32	33	.492	8 1/2
New Orleans	28	36	.438	12
San Antonio	27	36	.429	12 1/2

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	43	22	.662	—
Utah	41	25	.643	1 1/2
Oklahoma City	40	24	.625	2 1/2
Portland	29	37	.440	14 1/2
Minnesota	19	45	.297	23 1/2

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	40	24	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	44	20	.688	5 1/2
Sacramento	38	28	.573	11 1/2
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

with one less game than the Magic.

In the West, four teams — Portland, New Orleans, Sacramento and San Antonio — are all separated by a half-game in the race for ninth place and potentially a berth in a play-in series. The gap between those four teams is 14 1/2 percentage points, and the Trail Blazers will play 74 games, the Pelicans and Kings will both play 72 and the Spurs 71.

face," Popovich said. "For white people to see how nonchalant, how casual, just how everyday-going-about-his job, so much so that he could just put his left hand in his pocket, wriggle his knee around a little bit to teach this person some sort of a lesson."

"I think I'm just embarrassed as a white person to know that that can happen. To actually watch a lynching. We've all seen books, and you look in the books and you see black people hanging off of trees. ... But we just saw it again. ... It's like the neighborhood where you know there's a dangerous corner, and you know that something's going to happen someday, and nobody does anything. And then a young kid gets killed and a stop sign goes up."



BRIAN RAY/AP

Iowa strength and conditioning coach Chris Doyle, left, celebrates with defensive back John Lowdermilk following their 2013 win in overtime against Northwestern. Doyle has been placed on administrative leave after several black former players posted on social media about what they described as systemic racism in the program.

Briefly

Iowa strength coach placed on leave amid racism allegations

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa football strength and conditioning coach Chris Doyle has been placed on administrative leave after several black former players posted on social media about what they described as systemic racism in the program.

Head coach Kirk Ferentz made the announcement Saturday night, calling it "a defining moment" for Iowa's football program in a video posted on the team's Twitter account.

"Over the past 24 hours, I have seen some difficult and heart-breaking posts on social media," Ferentz said. "I appreciate the former players' candor and have been reaching out to many of them individually to hear more about their experiences in our program. I am planning on talking to all of them in the coming days."

"This is a process that will take some time, but change begins by listening first."

Dozens of former players took to social media in the past few days to detail the troubling issues they allege they saw and experienced playing at Iowa.

"There are too many racial disparities in the Iowa football program," Chicago Bears guard James Daniels wrote Friday night on Twitter. "Black players have been treated unfairly for far too long."

Former defensive lineman Faith Ekakitie tweeted that one of the main reasons he committed to Iowa was because of Ferentz, saying, "He cares, and he gets it." Ekakitie then added: "However, for this program in particular,

real change begins with @coach_Doyle and his Strength & Conditioning staff."

The 51-year-old Doyle has been Iowa's strength and conditioning coach since 1999, when Ferentz took over the football program.

"Many of the discussions have centered around our strength and conditioning program and coach Chris Doyle," Ferentz said. "I have spoken with him about the allegations posted on social media. They're troubling and have created a lasting impact on those players. Therefore, Coach Doyle has been placed on administrative leave immediately while an independent review can take place. He and I agree that all parties will have their voices heard and then a decision about how we move forward will be made."

Ferentz announced he is creating an advisory committee to address "a call for a cultural shift." The coach said it will be led by a former player and include current and former players, along with members of the athletic department staff.

Kansas to pay ex-coach \$2.55M in settlement

LAWRENCE, Kan. — The University of Kansas announced late Friday it had reached a settlement with former football coach David Beatty, who had filed a lawsuit against the school alleging athletic department officials were trying to circumvent terms of his contract.

The school agreed to pay \$2.55 million to end all litigation and disputes.

The two sides had been in a

legal battle since shortly after Kansas fired Beatty near the end of the 2018 season. His contract called for a \$3 million buyout, but the school refused to pay it after discovering potential NCAA infractions.

Thomas, world champ gymnast, dies at 64

Kurt Thomas, the first U.S. male gymnast to win a world championship gold medal, has died. He was 64.

Thomas' family said he died Friday. He had a stroke May 24, caused by a tear of the basilar artery in the brain stem.

"Yesterday, I lost my universe, my best friend and my soulmate of 24 years. Kurt lived his life to the extreme, and I will be forever honored to be his wife," Beckie Thomas told International Gymnast Magazine.

After competing in the 1976 Montreal Olympics, Thomas won the floor exercise in the 1978 world championships in Strasbourg, France, for the first U.S. men's title. In the 1979 world's first, he won the floor exercise title and won the horizontal bar while adding silver in the all-around, pommel horse and parallel bars.

Thomas, who also captured the American Cup three times, lost a chance for Olympic gold when the United States boycotted the 1980 Moscow Games.

"In my mind and my heart, I knew I was the best at that time," Thomas told the South Florida Sun-Sentinel in 1989.

OPINION

Kaepernick's crusade

Colin Kaepernick was a second-round draft pick in 2011. The next year he led the San Francisco 49ers to the Super Bowl. By 2016, he had begun kneeling on the sideline at games during the national anthem to protest social injustice and police brutality.

Soon after, he was gone from the NFL. Here's a timeline of Kaepernick's days since he first knelt during "The Star-Spangled Banner."

Aug. 26: During the anthem before a Packers-49ers preseason game, Kaepernick sits on the San Francisco bench. Kaepernick says he sat because the country "oppresses black people and people of color," and notes he had not stood previously. His action does not attract immediate national attention.

Aug. 27: Kaepernick's sitdown begins drawing headlines. Some condemn him for dishonoring the flag and country. Others applaud his motives. The NFL says players are encouraged but not required to stand for the anthem.

Aug. 30: Former NFL player and ex-Green Beret Nate Boyer suggests to Kaepernick to kneel rather than sit during the anthem.

Sept. 1: Kaepernick kneels before a road game against the Chargers and says he will donate \$1 million to organizations supporting his aims.

Sept. 5: President Barack Obama defends Kaepernick's protest as his constitutional right.

Sept. 7: NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell says he "doesn't necessarily agree with what (Kaepernick) is doing," but supports players who seek changes in society.

Sept. 11: On the first day of the regular season, several players kneel during the anthem.

Sept. 12: Kaepernick and safety Eric Reid kneel on the field during the anthem. The Rams, Kaepernick is rehabbing a knee injury and doesn't play.

Sept. 27: After criticism from Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, Kaepernick responds: "He always says make America great again. Well, America has never been great for people of color. That's something that needs to be addressed. Let's make America great for the first time."

Oct. 16: Kaepernick returns as 49ers starter in a 45-16 loss at Buffalo and remains the starter the rest of the season.

2017

Jan. 13: Kaepernick plays his final NFL game, a 25-23 loss to Seattle.

March 3: His stint with the 49ers, who planned to cut him, ends as Kaepernick opts out of his contract.

Aug. 25: Although several teams have shown moderate interest in Kaepernick, he gets no contract offers. Supporters say team owners are backsliding him.

Sept. 10: Without Kaepernick in the league, players still kneel during the anthem.

Oct. 15: Kaepernick files a grievance against NFL team owners, citing collusion to keep him out of the league.

Dec. 11: NFL season ends with Kaepernick unemployed.

2018

April 18: As part of their collusion claim, Kaepernick and representatives depose Goodell and a variety of NFL owners and executives.

May 23: NFL owners approve a rule banning kneeling during the anthem. Players have the option to stay in the locker room. President Trump applauds the rule. NFL owners soon rescind the rule because of its divisiveness.

Sept. 3: As the regular season approaches without Kaepernick, the NFL makes the quarterback the focal point of its sports advertising campaign. "Believe in something, even if it means sacrificing everything. #JustBelieve."

Sept. 9: A second straight season begins with Kaepernick not on a roster, but with some players still kneeling during the anthem.

Dec. 26: Reid, a free agent, finally finds a team, the Carolina Panthers, and is congratulated on social media by Kaepernick.

Dec. 30: The regular season ends with Kaepernick remains without an NFL offer.

2019

Feb. 15: The NFL reaches settlements with Kaepernick and Reid on their civil grievances. Monetary figures are not disclosed.

Apr. 15: Kaepernick and Reid's attorneys send social media messages to teams that includes a video of him working out.

Apr. 28: The third consecutive full opening day of an NFL season without Kaepernick.

May 15: Finally, Kaepernick makes the session for nearly nine minutes. Kaepernick is transparent in how it would be run, who would attend and liability for potential injuries. A letter and motion picture are made.

Dec. 29: The season ends with Kaepernick unemployed.

2020

Feb. 13: Kaepernick says he will write a memoir, though he still wants to play football.

May 29: Sparked by the death of George Floyd, Black men march and flower white police officer in Minneapolis pressed a knee into the back for nearly nine minutes. Kaepernick says, "We have the right to fight and stand in power."

May 30: The NFL's statement on Floyd's death and the ensuing protests mentions Kaepernick's demonstration during the anthem.

June 4: Kaepernick supporters within the league release a video urging the NFL to denounce racism and promote social justice.

June 10: In a video, Kaepernick addresses to players for not listening to them earlier. He encourages them to protest peacefully and to "stand in power" during the anthem.

June 16: Trump reiterates criticism of Kaepernick. Saints coach Sean Payton responds for comments about protesters' goals: "The protest is not about the flag. It's about the flag being revered, cherished, and flown high. We should be standing up straight and tall, ideally with a salute, or a hand on heart. It's about other things you can protest, but not our Great American Flag — NO KNEELING!"



PATRICK STOLLARZ, POOL/AP

Players of both teams kneel together on the grass at the center circle to send a signal against racism prior to the German Bundesliga soccer match between Werder Bremen and VfL Wolfsburg in Bremen, Germany, on Sunday.

Opinions sift of Kaepernick's stance

More people getting behind QB's protest after recent events spark increased outrage

By ROB MAADPI
Associated Press

When Colin Kaepernick took a knee during the national anthem to take a stand against police brutality and racial injustice in 2016, he was mostly alone.

Politicians, team owners and fellow players criticized him, fans burned his jersey, and he was booed even at home. Four years later, his protest is widely viewed as prescient.

Even NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell apologized to players for not listening to them earlier and encouraged them to protest peacefully.

"We, the National Football League, condemn racism and the systematic oppression of black people," Goodell said in a video released Friday. "We, the National Football League, admit we were wrong for not listening to NFL players earlier and encourage all to speak out and peacefully protest. We, the National Football League, believe black lives matter. I personally protest with you and want to be part of the much needed change in this country."

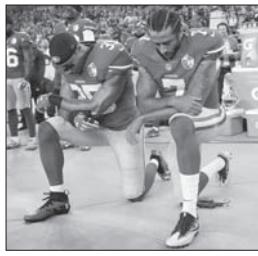
Global opinion has shifted so much that more people are now vilifying those who attack Kaepernick or misrepresent his stance.

New Orleans Saints star quarterback Drew Brees issued a public apology Thursday after he was excoriated by teammates, other athletes and fans for saying he "will never agree with anybody disrespecting the flag of the United States."

That sentiment has been voiced loudly by Kaepernick's critics and President Donald Trump reiterated it Friday, saying on Twitter: "I am a big fan of Drew Brees. I think he's truly one of the greatest quarterbacks, but he should not have taken back his original stance on honoring our magnificent American Flag. OLD GLORY is to be revered, cherished, and flown high. We should be standing up straight and tall, ideally with a salute, or a hand on heart. There are other things you can protest, but not our Great American Flag — NO KNEELING!"

Brees responded on social media in a post addressed to the president's Twitter handle.

"Through my ongoing conversations with friends, teammates, and leaders in the



MARCO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

49ers quarterback Colin Kaepernick, right, and safety Eric Reid kneel during the national anthem before a game on Sept. 12, 2016. Nearly four years later, it seems more people are starting to side with Kaepernick's peaceful protest.

black community, I realize this is not an issue about the American flag. It has never been," Brees wrote. "We can no longer use the flag to turn people away or distract them from the real issues that face our black communities."

"We did this back in 2017, and regretfully I brought it back with my comments this week. We must stop talking about the flag and shift our attention to the real issues of systemic racial injustice, economic oppression, police brutality, and justice & prison reform. We are at a critical juncture in our nation's history! If not now, then when?"

George Floyd's death, which ignited nationwide protests over racial injustice and police brutality, awakened many people to the root of the issues that led to Kaepernick's peaceful demonstration — an expression meant to raise awareness of such issues, not demean the flag or the anthem. The 32-year-old Kaepernick hasn't played in the NFL since 2016.

"The protest is really trying to hold us accountable for the things we say we believe in. It's about equality and justice for all," said Houston Texans wide receiver Kenny Stills, who has been taking a knee since Week 1 of the 2016 season.

This week, San Francisco 49ers coach Kyle Shanahan said Kaepernick deserves respect and admiration for starting the protest. Seattle Seahawks coach Pete Carroll praised him for his courage and sacrificing his career. Hall of Fame coach Tony Dungy compared Kaepernick to Muhammad Ali.

"There's a lot of parallels between Colin and my father," said Ali's daughter, Khaliah. "He stands 100 percent with integrity no matter the cost. He made an unwavering commitment for the betterment of his people and took an unapologetic stance against injustice. I have had many people attempt to discourage our support of Colin, which is unthinkable to me. He is a friend to our family, he is loved and honored."

The NFL and its teams have voiced their support for equality and called for change. In a video released Thursday night, 2018 NFL MVP Patrick Mahomes and several of his peers asked the league to "condemn racism and the systemic oppression of black people" and "admit wrong in silencing players from peacefully protesting."

Goodell did so in his strongest statement since Kaepernick and other players began their protests.

"Without black players, there would be no National Football League," Goodell said. "And the protests around the country are emblematic of the centuries of silence, inequality and oppression of black players, coaches, fans and staff. We are listening. I am listening, and I will be reaching out to players who have raised their voices and others on how we can improve and go forward for a better and more unified NFL family."

Kaepernick still wants an opportunity to play. A workout in Atlanta last November that was organized by the NFL turned chaotic and resulted in no job offers.

"Colin is a talented football player," Seahawks star Russell Wilson said this week. "I remember playing against him; the man could play some football. But he stood up for something far more greater than football. And that's people's lives. He was standing up for people that have come and gone and for everyone who is African American and the oppression that has been going on."

AP Photo Writer Josh Dubow and AP Sports Footbal Tim Booth and Steve Megargee contributed to this report.

UFC/SOCCER

Nunes pounds Spencer, retains belt at UFC 250

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — Amanda Nunes' impressive reign atop two UFC divisions is showing no signs of decline.

In fact, her dominance is making history.

Nunes became the first UFC fighter to defend two championship belts while actively holding the titles in both weight classes Saturday night, earning a dominant unanimous decision over featherweight contender Felicia Spencer at UFC 250.

Former bantamweight champion Cody Garbrandt also knocked out Raphael Assuncao an instant before the second-round bell in the co-main event at a fan-free gym on the UFC's corporate campus in Las Vegas.

UFC 250 was the second event held at the UFC Apex gym in the promotion's

‘I knew something big was going to happen in my life.’

Amanda Nunes

UFC champion in two weight classes

hometown since its resumption in competition amid the coronavirus pandemic. The Apex octagon is 25 feet in diameter instead of the typical 30 feet, and those close quarters resulted in several entertaining finishes, including spectacular knockouts by Garbrandt and fellow bantamweight star “Suga” Sean O’Malley.

Nunes (20-4), widely considered the greatest female fighter in mixed martial arts history, is the UFC's champion of the

bantamweight and featherweight divisions. The list of two-division UFC champions is short, and no one else has defended both belts.

“Guys, no one else ever did that before!” Nunes said. “It’s amazing. I knew something big was going to happen in my life. Sometimes you’re surprised by how big it is.”

While Nunes’ dominance was tested in her last bout against bantamweight Germaine De Randamie in December, the relatively inexperienced Spencer (8-2) provided little danger to the champ, other than the remote possibility of breaking her hands in repeated collisions with Spencer’s face.

Nunes battered the slower Spencer with her fearsome striking power from the start, cutting the challenger’s face and

later sending her mouthpiece flying away during the third round. Spencer had a nasty hematoma growing on her forehead after the fourth round.

“I want to go to five rounds with the toughest girls, and tonight I proved it,” Nunes said. “I knew Felicia was the toughest girl in this division, and I know she’s going to handle it exactly how she did tonight.”

Nunes comfortably defended her featherweight belt for the first time since taking it from Cris “Cyborg” Justino in December 2018. She has defended the bantamweight belt five times since 2016.

Garbrandt (12-3) had lost three straight fights before this impressive performance ended with a right cross that knocked out Assuncao in the final second of the second round.

McGregor retires for the third time

By GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

Conor McGregor has announced his retirement for the third time in four years.

McGregor abruptly made his latest dubious declaration Sunday morning on his Twitter account, where the former two-division UFC champion also announced his retirement in 2016 and 2019.

“Hey guys I’ve decided to retire from fighting,” McGregor wrote in a caption below a photo of him and his mother. “Thank you all for the amazing memories! What a ride it’s been!”

The 31-year-old Irish superstar revitalized his combat sports career in January with an impressive first-round stoppage of Donald “Cowboy” Cerrone at UFC 246. McGregor (22-4) hadn’t won a fight in a mixed martial arts cage or a boxing ring since 2016, but he remained the UFC’s biggest financial draw.

UFC President Dana White has already said McGregor is next in line for a title shot at the winner of lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov’s bout with Justin Gaethje this summer.

The UFC’s schedule is in upheaval due to the coronavirus pandemic, but McGregor was expected to get his title shot later this year, and he recently had been talking to White about taking another fight even earlier. Earlier this week, McGregor posted photos and videos of himself training for fights.

White seemed to take McGregor’s retirement announcement at face value — at least publicly.

“If Conor McGregor feels he wants to retire, you know my feelings about retirement,” White said. “You should absolutely do it. And I love Conor. ... There’s a handful of people that have made this really fun for me, and he’s one of them.”



JOHN LOCHER/AP

Conor McGregor smiles after defeating Donald “Cowboy” Cerrone in a UFC 246 bout in Las Vegas on Jan. 18. McGregor announced his retirement for the third time in four years, early Sunday on his Twitter account, where he also announced his 2016 and 2019 retirements.



LAURENT CIPRIANI/AP

Chelsea celebrates against Lyon during their 2019 Women's Champions League soccer match in Decines, France. The English Football Association's board named Chelsea the 2020 Super League champions based on their points total after the season was stopped because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Booted women's season raises questions

By ROB HARRIS

Associated Press

Runners-up when the season was paused, champions without playing again. It's little surprise Chelsea was fine with the Women's Super League season being curtailed.

But determining the final standings on a points-per-game ratio, rather than on the field — due to the coronavirus pandemic — has raised questions about the commitment to the women's game in England. While the WSL was abandoned, the men's Premier League will restart on June 17 after a 100-day suspension.

“Just because it didn’t resume doesn’t mean we’re under threat or at risk,” Chelsea manager Emma Hayes said Saturday. “I trust in the people running the league and I believe we’ll come back bigger, stronger and better from this.”

When the Blues last played — before the international break and the coronavirus shutdown — they were a point behind leader Manchester City but with a game in hand.

“They tried desperately to resume the season,” Hayes said. “Everybody has to appreciate the players too. I think it got to a period where they wanted a termination in the season and then safeguard and ring-fence everything that we worked hard towards in the women’s game — to start in a timely and safe manner for the upcoming season.”

Liverpool was pressing to finish this season after being denied the chance to climb out of last place and was relegated on a mathematical formula.

“Unfortunately we did not get the opportunity to fight for that place on the grass and it’s a difficult pill to swallow,” Liverpool manager Vicky

Jepson said. “I’m very disappointed in the FA’s decision, taken with eight games of our season left.”

Liverpool is, however, on the verge of winning the Premier League. The world’s richest football league receives more than \$3.8 billion each year from broadcasters, providing the funding for the mass COVID-19 testing now required each week to ensure players and coaches are not infected and spreading the disease. The government is also mandating strict hygiene conditions.

“There were a whole range of challenges — it wasn’t just as simple as tagging onto the Premier League,” said Kelly Simmons, the Football Association’s director of professional women’s football. “It became clear quite early ... that there were going to be a number of challenges, not just the costs of testing.”

AUTO RACING



Scott Dixon, left, jumps off his car toward team owner Chip Ganassi as the two celebrate Dixon's IndyCar win at Texas Motor Speedway in Fort Worth on Saturday.

CHris OWENS, INDYCAR Series/AP

Dixon dominates from start in IndyCar opener in Texas

Scoreboard

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

Genesys 300
IndyCar Series
Saturday
At Texas Motor Speedway
Fort Worth, Texas
Lap Length: 1.44 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (2) Scott Dixon, Honda, 200, Running.
2. (3) Simon Pagenaud, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
3. (1) Josef Newgarden, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
4. (5) Zach Veach, Honda, 200, Running.
5. (13) Ed Carpenter, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
6. (19) Conor Daly, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
7. (14) Colton Herta, Honda, 200, Running.
8. (4) Ryan Hunter-Reay, Honda, 200, Running.
9. (20) Oliver Askew, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
10. (16) Tony Kanaan, Chevrolet, 200, Running.
11. (12) Charlie Kimball, Chevrolet, 199, Running.
12. (18) Pat O'Ward, Chevrolet, 199, Running.
13. (6) Will Power, Chevrolet, 199, Running.
14. (11) Marco Andretti, Honda, 199, Running.
15. (8) Alexander Rossi, Honda, 199, Running.
16. (21) Jack Harvey, Honda, 199, Running.
17. (7) Graham Rahal, Honda, 198, Running.
18. (15) James Hinchcliffe, Honda, 198, Running.
19. (24) Alex Palou, Honda, 196, Running.
20. (9) Felix Rosenqvist, Honda, 190, Contact.
21. (3) Santino Ferrucci, Honda, 156, Mechanical.
22. (24) Rinus VeeKay, Chevrolet, 36, Contact.
23. (16) Alex Palou, Honda, 36, Contact.
24. (22) Takuma Sato, Honda, 0, Did Not Start.

Race Statistics
Winner's average speed: 175.201 mph
Time of Race: 1:38:37.7648.
Margin of victory: Under caution.
Caution: 4 for 24 laps.
Lead changes: 5 among 3 drivers.
Lap Leaders: Newgarden, Josef 1 - 31; Dixon, Scott 32 - 34; Veach, Zach 35 - 36; Dixon, Scott 37 - 80; Newgarden, Josef 81 - 90; Dixon, Scott 91 - 200.

FORT WORTH, Texas — IndyCar packed every bit of its delayed season-opening event into one long, hot day in Texas without any fans in the stands. Scott Dixon was the fastest for most of it at a place he knows well.

Dixon, a five-time IndyCar champion, took the checkered flag at dusk Saturday for his fourth win at the 1½-mile, high-banked oval, where drivers also practiced and qualified earlier in the day. The 39-year-old New Zealander raced to his 47th career victory and matched A.J. Foyt's record of 18 seasons with a win.

"It was such a team effort," said Dixon, third on the career wins list behind Foyt's 67 and Mario Andretti's 52. "It's just so fast. Any situation we were in, we could just go for it."

After a restart with three laps left following a caution when young teammate Felix Rosenqvist crashed while running second, Dixon sped away in the No. 9 Chip Ganassi Honda for a 4.4-second victory over Simon Pagenaud.

Defending IndyCar champion and pole-sitter Josef Newgarden was third behind Pagenaud, his teammate at Team Penske.

Nearly three months after the start of the season was put on hold because of the coronavirus pandemic, IndyCar finally got on the track for what would usually be the midpoint race of its season.

The massive grandstands that can seat well more than 100,000 people were empty, and not be-

cause of extreme heat — temperatures in the mid-90s with a heat index around 100 degrees Fahrenheit throughout practice, qualifying and even much of the race. No spectators were allowed, as will also be the case for the next race on the road course at Indianapolis Motor Speedway on July 4.

"It's rotten that the fans aren't here. I wish everybody was here to celebrate," said Dixon, who extended his own record to 16 seasons in a row with a victory.

Gov. Greg Abbott rode in the pace car for the first professional sporting event in Texas since sports shut down nationwide because of the coronavirus. The only at-track spectators were people watching from condos in the building overlooking Turn 2.

Dixon had the top speed during the two-hour practice session, and qualified second. He went on to win the IndyCar title each of the three previous times he won the Texas race.

Rosenqvist had been second behind Dixon for several laps when he crashed trying to move through traffic. He got high going onto the backstretch with nine laps remaining, bringing out the final caution, and finished 20th out of 23 cars that started the race.

Dixon led 157 of the 200 laps, and had an earlier six-second lead over Newgarden wiped out by a caution for debris. Newgarden led twice for 41 laps and fourth-place finisher Zach Veach led the remaining two laps. Ed Carpenter, the series' only driver-owner, rounded out the top five.

Allmendinger's first oval victory comes at Atlanta

BY PAUL NEWBERRY
Associated Press

HAMPTON, Ga. — A.J. Allmendinger finally won on an oval.

He might just retire.

Taking advantage of mistakes by the three leaders, the 38-year-old Californian cruised to victory by nearly 2 seconds over pole-sitter Noah Gragson in the Xfinity Series race at Atlanta Motor Speedway on Saturday.

"Oh my god," Allmendinger said as he climbed from his No. 16 Chevrolet. "I won on an oval."

Indeed, he did.

Allmendinger, who first came to prominence in open-wheel racing, claimed a single victory during more than a decade in the top-level Cup series, and he had three previous Xfinity wins — all on road courses.

Now, he's filled in a big hole on his resume.

"All I ever wanted to do was win on an oval," said Allmendinger, who has only a part-time job in the Xfinity Series after losing his Cup ride after the 2018 season. "I have a lot of success in my many forms of racing."

Allmendinger started 30th but quickly showed the strength of his car, spending much of the day running in the top 10.

Then, after the final caution

of the day, the top three cars — Chase Briscoe, Austin Cindric and Justin Allgaier — were all caught speeding on pit road.

That pushed Allmendinger into the top spot on the restart with 34 laps to go.

He held on the rest of the way. "I still think that even if they had started in front of us, we could've beat them on a long run," Allmendinger said. "But that clean air was definitely a big deal."

He appeared to be a rising star after capturing five victories on road and street circuits in the now-defunct Champ Car series in 2006.

Allmendinger accepted a lucrative offer from Red Bull to move into NASCAR, but never fulfilled his promise in the oval-dominated series.

His career took another setback when he was suspended in 2012 after testing positive for a banned stimulant. Allmendinger did, however, have a few races in IndyCar and worked to rebuild his reputation, finally returning to a full-time ride in the Cup Series — even claiming his first victory at Watkins Glen.

Yet he never shook his reputation as a road-course racer.

"Heck, I might just retire," Allmendinger quipped. "I just wanted to win on a damn oval."

Scoreboard

EchoPark 250
NASCAR-Xfinity Series
Saturday
At Atlanta Motor Speedway
Hampton, Ga.
Lap Length: 1.54 miles
(Start position in parentheses)

1. (30) A.J. Allmendinger, Chevrolet, 163 laps, 48 minutes.
2. (1) Noah Gragson, Chevrolet, 163, 45.
3. (4) Justin Haley, Chevrolet, 163, 46.
4. (2) Daniel Hemric, Chevrolet, 163, 46.
5. (5) Harrison Burton, Toyota, 163, 24.
6. (3) Justin Allgaier, Chevrolet, 163, 47.
7. (11) Ross Chastain, Chevrolet, 163, 47.
8. (12) Brandon Jones, Toyota, 163, 29.
9. (9) Chase Briscoe, Ford, 163, 40.
10. (24) Anthony Alfredo, Chevrolet, 163, 29.
11. (21) Michael Annett, Chevrolet, 163, 28.
12. (10) Brandon Brown, Chevrolet, 163, 28.
13. (20) Jeremy Clements, Chevrolet, 163, 24.
14. (3) Brett Moffitt, Chevrolet, 163, 0.
15. (34) Colby Howard, Chevrolet, 163, 2.
16. (8) Austin Cindric, Ford, 163, 41.
17. (18) Bailey Curry, Chevrolet, 163, 0.
19. (32) Ronnie Bassett Jr., Chevrolet, 162, 18.
20. (17) Jesse Little, Chevrolet, 162, 17.
21. (16) Jeffrey Earnhardt, Chevrolet, 162, 16.
22. (33) Tommy Joe Martins, Chevrolet, 162, 16.
23. (25) Mason Massey, Toyota, 162, 14.
24. (22) Garrett Smithley, Chevrolet, 162, 13.
25. (17) BJ McLeod, Chevrolet, 162, 12.
26. (7) Joe Graf Jr., Chevrolet, 162, 11.
27. (15) Alex Labbe, Chevrolet, 162, 10.

28. (23) Josh Williams, Chevrolet, 162, 9.
29. (35) Myatt Snider, Chevrolet, 161, 8.
30. (26) Matt Mills, Chevrolet, 161, 7.
31. (19) Vinnie Miller, Chevrolet, 156, 6.
32. (28) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, suspension, 50.3.
33. (29) Timmy Hill, Toyota, garage, 87.0.
34. (18) Chad Finchum, Toyota, suspension, 50.3.
35. (7) Ryan Siep, Chevrolet, engine, 47.
36. (37) Stephen Leicht, Toyota, clutch, 81.
37. (36) Kody Vanderwal, Chevrolet, engine, 3, 1.

Race Statistics
Average Speed of Race Winner: 122.9 N.Grasion 126; A.Allmendinger 127.
Time of Race: 2 hours, 2 minutes, 37 seconds.

Margin of Victory: 1.858 seconds.
Caution Flags: 6 for 28 laps.
Lap Leaders: N.Grasion 0-5; A.Cindric 6-17; J.Allgaier 18-25; A.Cindric 26-42; J.Allgaier 43; A.Cindric 44-82; C.Briscoe 83-98; M.Annett 99-101; C.Briscoe 102-125; N.Grasion 126; A.Allmendinger 127.

Leaders Summary (Driver, Times Led, Lap Led): 2.Cindric, 3 times for 68 laps; C.Briscoe, 2 times for 40 laps; A.Allmendinger, 1 time for 37 laps; J.Haley, 1 time for 8 laps; N.Grasion, 2 times for 6 laps; M.Annett, 1 time for 3 laps; J.Allgaier, 1 time for 1 lap.
Wins: C.Briscoe, 2; N.Grasion, 2; H.Burton, 1; B.Jones, 1; A.Allmendinger, 1.
Top 15 in Points: 1.C.Briscoe, 340; 2.N.Grasion, 336; 3.H.Burton, 308; 4.J.Allmendinger, 285; 5.R.Chastain, 276; 6.A.Cindric, 285; 7.J.Haley, 267; 8.B.Jones, 258; 9.D.Hemric, 222; 10.R.Sieg, 217; 11.R.Hertzig, 201; 12.B.Brown, 199; 13.M.Annett, 198; 14.J.Williams, 146; 15.M.Snyder, 152; 16.A.Labbe, 142.

SPORTS

FLOYD REACTION

Ahead of his time

Kaepernick's solitary crusade now seen as prescient

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